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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, rate your level of optimism that the CNMI economy will improve next year.

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INSIDE



Top Stories
The massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill is voted the top news story of 2010.
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Year of Disasters
This was the year the Earth struck back, killing at least a quarter million people in 2010.
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The upheaval of late-night at NBC is 2010's entertainment story of the year.
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PERSON OF THE YEAR

Angel Ray T. Guerrero

Cancer survivor
Angel Ray T. Guerrero.

RELATED NEWS

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SMALL BIZ OF THE YEAR

Jhem's Restaurant

When Elizabeth Miyata was still living in Japan, she was always glued to the television, watching cooking shows with a pen and notebook on hand. She would then try out the recipes and let her friends taste the results of her culinary experiments.

That penchant for cooking and the easy way she has around the kitchen has given rise to one of the more successful small businesses on the island, Jhem's Restaurant, which offers authentic Filipino flavors and specialties served in true *Pinoy* fashion.

**See story on
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Miyata

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Sparks of inspiration often come at unexpected moments. For cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero, that magical instant came when he stumbled upon a hospital playroom with children who had also just come from a battle no parent would wish for their sons or daughters. He was only 11 years old back then, and was recuperating from surgery for his brain tumor.

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\$2,750 monthly 'allowance' for 3 Saipan senators OK'd

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Unknown to many, the Senate amended on a 9-0 vote its own rules on Dec. 9 to allow three Saipan senators to receive up to \$2,750 in monthly subsistence allow-

ance, on top of their salaries, discretionary allowance, and share in the leadership account.

Previously, only Rota and Tinian senators receive a monthly subsistence allowance of \$4,250.

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Critical employees saved from payless payday—for now. PAGE 16
Gulf oil spill voted as the top news story of 2010. PAGE 23

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LOLLIPOPS

The top newsmakers of the year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO, MONETH DEPOSA, FERDIE DE LA TORRE, CLARISSA DAVID
 REPORTERS

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) has made it



his crusade to legalize casino operation on Saipan to save the CNMI economy from total collapse. But the former governor has been getting too much resistance from those opposed to casinos, including the Senate, which killed one of his two casino bills, saying that Saipan voters had already twice rejected initiatives proposing the same thing. Tenorio has also earned notoriety for changing his decisions, including whether to step down or not as speaker, and for his open criticism of other government officials, including minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Rota and Tinian lawmakers, and the whole Senate.

appointment expired when the 17th Legislature took office on Jan. 11 this year and her contract was not renewed on Oct. 1, but Reyes is standing her ground. The animosity between the two has also become a sticky issue between the leaderships of the House and Senate, where Reyes' husband, Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), is currently the floor leader. The bureau director has also been a subject of complaints and ouster petitions by former and current bureau and lawmakers' employees.

2010 YEAR END REPORT

Associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo

While the disciplinary case against Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo began in 2009, it was this year



Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan)

Besides being one of the longest serving CNMI lawmakers, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is also one with the most contro-



versial—if not outright outrageous—bills pending in the 17th Legislature, the most popular of which is a proposal to legalize marijuana for medicinal and recreational uses. His marijuana legalization bill stirred debates and discussion that was picked up by national and international media. But just like the speaker's Saipan casino bill, Torres's "pot" proposal was killed by the Senate. Torres also called for the expungement of criminal records of some individuals years after their conviction, the lifting of restriction on gun ownership, and an assessment of whether residents still want to maintain the CNMI's current relationship with the United States, among other measures.

LB director Glenna SP. Reyes

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes twice defied House Speaker Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) memo this



year asking her to vacate her post, which the speaker wanted to be taken over by former senator Maria "Frica" Pangelinan. The speaker said that Reyes'

when the CNMI Supreme Court conducted a hearing and issued a decision. The high court found that the Family Court judge violated certain provisions of the Commonwealth Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as some of the Commonwealth Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

The Supreme Court publicly censured Govendo and ordered him to complete an educational program on judicial ethics at his own expense, for making several comments, including the "adios muchacho" phrase, in three different hearings.

The disciplinary case arises from a November 2008 decision issued by Judge Ramona V. Manglona where she cited Govendo for violating the "principles of decorum and temperance."

Ambrosio Ogomoro

Ambrosio Ogomoro was a lightning rod for controversy in 2010. In the early part of the year, the then deputy com-



missioner of the Department of Public Safety slammed the Drug Enforcement Administration and DEA Guam-CNMI resident agent-in-charge Antonio Marquez in a press conference for alleged credit-grabbing. Hours later, he was out of a job, ter-

Continued on Next Page

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From Page 2

minated by DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela. There were talks at DPS that the real reason was that many officers and even the daughter of Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, a DPS employee, had complained about how Ogomoro ran the department.

After two months, Gov. Benigno Fitial reinstated Ogomoro to the same position. That same day, Inos' daughter resigned from DPS as officer-in-charge of the Fiscal Affairs Section.

In November, Tudela terminated Ogomoro again. The commissioner cited alleged retaliation against some employees and having an expired employment status. At the time, Gov. Fitial was also off-island.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

Besides his resounding victory in the November election, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan made it to this year's



list of top newsmakers for reasons far more civilized than the smear campaign against him during the delegate race. Sablan has availed of additional funding for the Commonwealth through various grants and pushed for better benefits for veterans and those under Social Security. The re-elected delegate has presented congressional commendations to local residents and establishments that have brought honor for the islands in so many ways. Furthermore, Sablan has sponsored various bills for the good of the CNMI and its residents during his first term as delegate.

Carmen Fernandez

Dr. Carmen Fernandez is among *Saipan Tribune's* newsmakers for 2010 because of her "presence and exit" from the Northern Marianas College. Since her suspension on Jan. 12 until her



eventual termination on April 12, the former president made her presence felt as groups and organizations at NMC were split in their opinion of her. If the college foundation, ASNMC leadership, and staff Senate supported her stay, the

powerful faculty senate and members of the new Board of Regents expressed otherwise. Fernandez later sued NMC and some members of the board, alleging that she was illegally terminated from the college.



Attorney General Edward Buckingham
The year ended with the Office

of the Public Auditor releasing its investigation on Attorney
See TOP on Page 5

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Senate confirms Tomokane's reappointment to CDA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed the reappointment of Merced "Marcie" Tomokane to the Commonwealth Development Authority yesterday afternoon, or a few hours after holding a public hearing on

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's two appointees to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tomokane, who is the Bank of Guam vice president CNMI regional manager, will be serving a third term on the CDA board that will expire in 2014.

While she was not in the Senate

chamber when senators confirmed her reappointment, her colleagues on the CDA board led by Manny Sablan, as well as Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Joshua Sasamoto were there.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government

Investigations chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) also held a public hearing yesterday morning on the government's appointment of Nacrina A. Barcinas and Jerry P. Crisostimo to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Barcinas represents Rota, while Crisostimo represents Saipan on the board.

But the committee did not have a recommendation report in time for the Senate session in the afternoon.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), during the public hearing, expressed concern that the current Retirement Fund board seems to be more concerned with balancing its books and losing sight of the services to the retirees and members.

ALLOWANCE

From Page 1

Their counterparts in the House have a \$4,000 month subsistence allowance.

Some government employees and officials yesterday expressed disappointment with the Senate vote to give additional so-called fringe benefits to Saipan senators at a time when most public servants are getting 16-hour pay cuts, unpaid holidays, and delayed payrolls like today.

The three senators covered by the rule change are Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan), and Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan).

Torres, who initiated the amendment to Senate Rule 12, said this doesn't necessarily mean that he and the two other senators will get their subsistence

allowance.

"I have not received any check, or any subsistence allowance, and I don't see myself requesting it in the near future without justification," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office.

He said it is difficult for senators to travel to Rota and Tinian for official functions and get only 50 percent in advance per diem and get the other half several weeks later after their return.

Torres said he will not be requesting for any subsistence allowance that is more than what he thinks he will be needing, and without justifying it.

Crisostimo, for his part, said it was Torres who pushed for the amendment.

He also said the three Saipan senators are entitled to subsistence allowance received by their Tinian and Rota counterparts.

"If Rota and Tinian [senators] are entitled to that, then Saipan senators should also have equal entitlement," he said, adding that it is hard for officials like him to buy services and goods from vendors that are afraid of the purchase order system, thinking they won't get paid right away.

Crisostimo also said he doesn't spend his salary for himself, but donate it to his precinct projects, school projects, individuals in need of help, and other worthy causes.

Reyes, who also donates his salary to scholarships, said he wouldn't be touching his subsistence allowance.

He also said that it didn't matter whether he voted or not because all other senators approved it.

A Capital Hill official said this is the worst time for senators to allow themselves to receive up to \$2,750 in monthly subsistence allowance, while

another said it shows the lack of sensitivity of senators with the worst financial crisis that the CNMI is experiencing.

"I felt sick to my stomach when I heard about that," another one said.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), when asked for comment, said it will be up to each member to justify their need to request for such subsistence allowance.

In nine years from 2001 to 2010, senators' monthly subsistence allowance totaled over \$3.2 million, the Office of the Public Auditor said in a March 2010 letter to House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

OPA said that, while the authority for the monthly subsistence allowance is found in Senate rules and resolutions, the Constitution and Commonwealth law require allowances for expenses to be in the form

of law, and that the CNMI is likely paying senators in excess of reasonable travel costs.

The public auditor provided Tenorio with a list of all the names of senators from Rota, Tinian and Saipan receiving subsistence allowances of \$5,000 a month, covering the period from Oct. 1, 2001 to March 9, 2010. The Senate reduced the amount to \$4,200 in January.

The public auditor said the information was downloaded from the CNMI Department of Finance's financial management system and was not subjected to any review or analysis.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Saipan), when asked for comment, said while he's allowed to get \$4,000 in monthly subsistence allowance, he only requests between \$2,500 and \$3,000 to cover his actual expenses going to and from Saipan and Tinian.

ANGEL

From Page 1

Several medical checkups, medical scan, and chemotherapy later, the now 16-year-old cancer survivor continues to give hope and spread cheer not only to fellow patients, but also to anybody who needs a wheelchair, a loaf of bread, a book, or a toy.

And it all started when he first saw in his fellow patients' eyes that need to be cheered up, cared for, thought of, and loved on that day in a playroom at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Hawaii in 2007.

"I was walking at the hospital one day and I asked my dad, 'What's that?' My dad said, 'A playroom.' There was a TV, lots of videos, there were computer games that took patients' mind off their situation. I was amazed to see a place like that, especially when children were in a situation like me... It was an inviting place. You wouldn't think it's in a hospital," he said.

That's when he thought about what he could do to help bring cheer to patients like him, especially those from the CNMI. He saw how young patients were properly taken care of in Hawaii and wanted the same care for young patients from or in the CNMI.

He also wanted to give back to his community, which helped him during his ordeal despite the financial hardships and the general state of the economy.

9 wheelchairs

It was not until a few months later when Angel Ray was able to put those ideas into action, when he had a chance meeting in early 2008 with then Hawaii State Rep. Glenn Wakai, now a state senator. That was at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu, where even up to now, many CNMI medical referral patients and their escorts stay.

His mother, Vicky Guerrero, who is now Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special assistant for programs and legislative review, also remembers that day like it was yesterday.

She said CNMI Medical Referral

personnel knocked on their door at the Pagoda Hotel to borrow his son's wheelchair to help transport another patient. They gave him back his wheelchair later.

"Glenn saw all that, and he told Angel that if there's anything he needed, just let him know," she said.

Angel Ray and his mother, in an interview on Christmas Eve at the Herman's Modern Bakery on Airport Road, said that was the moment Angel Ray needed so he could put into action what he had been planning all along.

"I asked him if he could help me get wheelchairs for the CNMI Medical Referral Office in Hawaii," said Angel Ray, now a junior at Saipan Southern High School.

In less than three weeks, Wakai called the Guerrero family to tell them he's got nine wheelchairs for the CNMI Medical Referral Office.

"I knew that this guy is true to his word because of what he did," said Angel Ray, adding that there's always no harm in asking for something that will help other people.

His mother said they immediately called the CNMI Medical Referral Office personnel in Hawaii to turn over to them the donated wheelchairs. One of those personnel was Angel Demapan, who later became the governor's press secretary.

Reaching out

Over lunch that time, Wakai told the young Guerrero about his Reach Out Pacific, a non-profit organization that takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to Pacific islands, including the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and the Philippines.

That began a partnership between Angel Ray and Wakai, who used to be an assistant news director for television news on Saipan in the early '90s. Angel Ray became the bridge through which donations from off-island are channeled through so they could reach their intended beneficiaries.

Months after the lunch meeting, Wakai's Reach Out Pacific shipped a 40-foot container with hospital bed

sheets, hospital gowns, and six truckloads of toys for the Commonwealth Health Center's Pediatrics Unit, among other things.

Then came Reach Out Pacific's second 20-foot container that arrived on Saipan on April 10, 2009, with 50 boxes of books, 19 bookshelves, 100 boxes of linens, and 60 bags of toys. The linens were for CHC, while the toys were given to patients at the hospital's pediatrics unit. The Public School System also received the donated bookshelves and books.

Angel Ray has since then help make possible several donations of stuffed toys, educational toys, hard covered journals, books, clothing, hospital linens and gowns, among other things, to organizations on Saipan, including CHC's pediatric ward, Karidat, and the Division of Youth Services.

'Angel is an angel'

In July this year, Angel Ray again received seven boxes of donated books and toys, this time from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, so that the teen could help more children.

The books came from the U.S. Library of Congress, which gets multiple copies of books when they are first published. The library makes available to members of Congress excess books that it does not need for its own collection.

"I met Kilili at the Sabalu market. He's a busy man but he takes time off to meet people. He said I'm doing a good job. I told him since he's a congressman, maybe he could get donations for our islands and he asked what specific items I was thinking about. I said books and toys. That's how it started," the boy said.

Sablan had said that Angel Ray's name "is apropos to what he does."

"Angel is an angel," the delegate said after presenting the boxes of books to Angel Ray.

With the help of his family, Angel Ray made donations of books and toys later this year to the Koblerville Youth Center and to the members of the Autism Society of the CNMI.

At a young age, Angel Ray has received several accolades from the community and from government officials,

including the delegate. In September, the 17th Senate also presented him with a resolution honoring him for his courage and resilience in fighting cancer since he was 11, and for his generous contributions to the community.

"One of the amazing things about him is that he never stops to share a positive outlook in life," said Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), author of the resolution, during a Senate session.

Even on the eve of a medical scan of his brain, spine, and lumbar area in late November, Angel Ray took time to bring cheer to fellow Saipan patients in Honolulu by sharing with them bread and cookies from Saipan.

"He started knocking on doors right before dinner today to check up on them and give them Herman's Bakery bread and cookies. According to Angel, this is one way of showing them that we care about them, especially when the Christmas holiday is just coming up," his mother told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail from Honolulu at the time.

'A miracle baby'

Angel Ray was born on Oct. 21, 1994, as a "miracle baby," his parents Joseph and Vicky Guerrero said. Angel Ray has a younger brother and three older sisters.

"He almost didn't survive," his father said, months after his son was diagnosed in August 2007 with Medulloblastoma, a type of brain tumor. He was only 11 years old at the time of the diagnosis, because his 12th birthday was not until two months later, his parents said.

His parents said when their son was born, he needed two tubes that were surgically inserted into both sides of his chest to keep him alive.

"He had no heart beat and people said it was really a miracle that he's alive," his mother said, adding that the whole family is grateful to God for the strength and all the blessings He has given to Angel Ray and the family.

Angel Ray said before he was diagnosed with brain tumor, he was active in a lot of sports, including basketball.

"My medical condition changed my life but I think it's for the better," he said.

He said he was shocked to learn that he had brain tumor at the time. While at the hospital one day, he chanced upon a magazine article about a cyclist who also had cancer.

"In his own words, cancer is just a speed bump in your life. You can overcome it. I believe that," he said.

Right before his scheduled surgery in Hawaii in August 2007, Angel Ray's family and relatives even sold hot lunches to raise funds that will assist with his medical expenses. What the family thought was a week or two of surgery and hospitalization became a 15-month stay in Honolulu for needed medical monitoring, intense chemotherapy and other follow-up treatments.

'A strong person'

Eight months after that surgery, Angel Ray's father wrote an open letter to the community, thanking them for their support and prayers. The father also thanked their Angel.

"Being the person that he is, he stood strong and accepted what God had put on him. He continues to only look at the bright side of life and the negative disappears," his father said.

Angel Ray also donated a piece of his tumor to a team of researchers in Hawaii investigating the cause of Medulloblastoma, which remains unknown today.

"I hope they will soon find out what's causing it and how it could be treated fast," he said.

Angel Ray has proven that a medical condition need not stop people from sharing and cheering up other people.

One of his plans is to someday build his own foundation, to be named The Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero Foundation that will help not only children but adults as well on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"Always have faith, never give up, and prayer helps. As much as I want to say it will cure everything, I won't. But always stay positive. Don't be sad about it. When you fall down, you should stand up again. I know that God has plans for me and gave me another chance to live, and I hope I am doing what he wants me to do," he added.

TOP

From Page 3

General Edward T. Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General for hosting a campaign gathering for then delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the Covenant Party at Gov. Benigno Fitial's residence in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28.

The probe results remain confidential, but media reports state that the OPA findings showed that Buckingham acted improperly. Buckingham hired a private attorney using public funds to represent him with the investigation.

Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan even asked the OAG to release documents related to Buckingham and OAG's hosting of the campaign event. The Committee to elect Jesus C. Borja of the Democratic Party also pushed for the investigation on Buckingham.

Michael Ada as ARRA czar

Michael Ada stirred up a hornet's nest when he resigned as Commerce secretary purportedly to continue his studies,



only to be awarded a \$392,406 sole-source contract to do what he was doing when he was still in government—managing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program in the CNMI. The no-bid contract and alleged improprieties for getting a government contract shortly after leaving public service sounded off an alarm

that reached even the office of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, which oversees the ARRA program nationwide, and drew an investigation from the Office of the Public Auditor. Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions also bagged the controversial contract even before the firm could obtain a CNMI business license.

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Seasons Greetings



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Life in Motion

Govt shutdown, payless paydays is 2010's biggest story

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO, MONETH DEPOSA, FERGIE DE LA TORRE, CLARISSA DAVID
REPORTERS

1. Partial government shutdown and payless paydays

Partial payless paydays and a partial government shutdown will go down in CNMI history as the biggest shock of 2010, because of a toxic mix of a budget that shrunk to \$132 million from more than double years back, political posturing, and a 2009 constitutional amendment requiring timely passage of an annual budget. For eight full days, the government partially closed and some 1,400 government employees were without work be-

cause the House of Representatives and the Senate failed to pass a budget in time for the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1. Several tension-filled sessions and meetings later, some going beyond 1am, lawmakers agreed to a 16-hour cut and unpaid holidays for most government employees. Despite these austerity measures, the government continues to have payless paydays for thousands of mostly non-critical government employees.

2. Kili sweeps 2010 delegate election

Amid a lower voter turnout, the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives won his re-election bid in a sweeping victory in November's four-way delegate.

Gregorio Kili C. Sablan, who was first elected to the post in 2008 for a two-year term, received a total of 4,896 votes or 43 percent of the 11,325 votes counted, a wide margin over his closest opponent, Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho.

Sablan will be sworn in for the second term on Jan. 5, 2011, and will serve a four-year term in a Republican-dominated Congress.

The re-elected Delegate vowed to see the work on the passage of H.R. 4686 or the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act and H.R. 934 or the submerged lands bill. Sablan also plans to work on important issues affecting the Commonwealth such as immigration, health, tourism, and education.

3. Interior report on alien workers' status

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta personally handed to CNMI government officials on April 30 a copy of the Interior's report recommending that thousands of alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for at least five years be allowed to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act. These include conferring outright U.S. citizenship on these long-term aliens by an act of Congress, and granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship. The report led to the holding of separate rallies opposing or supporting the recommendations, which have yet to be acted on by the U.S. Congress.

4. Massage-gate

The year 2010 had its first controversy when Qingmei Cheng, a 28-year-old masseuse who was then detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe on federal charges of trying to sneak into Guam, was temporarily released from her cell to provide massage therapy to Gov. Benigno Fitial during the early morning hours of Jan. 8. Cheng was

promptly returned to the DOC after treating the governor.

Upon learning of the unauthorized release of the detainee, the U.S. Attorney's Office moved the district court to conduct an evidentiary hearing to "ascertain the facts and circumstances of these events, and to determine whether any prejudice was caused thereby."

Members of the Legislature, as well as the Office of the Public Auditor, had taken a hands-off or a wait-and-see stance on the issue. But some critics of Fitial pushed for a full investigation at both federal and local levels.

On Feb. 7, then U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Alex Munson granted CNMI Attorney General Edward Buckingham's motion to vacate the evidentiary hearing.

Munson said that most important to the court's decision is its concern that it is being asked by the U.S. government to occupy an essentially investigatory role in support of a motion that is, "perhaps unavoidably, entirely speculative at this point in time."

The following month, Cheng entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to time already served in jail.

5. The Palms Resort closure

When the United Micronesian Development Association acquired Palms Resort, formerly Hotel Nikko, in February 2008, people were told that the new management will keep the business afloat and even expand the facilities to become one of the island's best hotels—one that will cater to both locals and foreigners. After two years, a notice was sent to employees indicating the management's decision to close—claiming it is preparing for a massive renovation that will take 18 months to complete. More than half of its over 100 personnel were initially laid off on Sept. 30 until all were given termination notices in November. The 14-floor Palms Resort finally shuttered its windows and doors on Oct. 11.

6. Sole-source contracts

The Department of Public Lands cancelled in May a \$60,000 a consultant contract to Felix Nogis, after both the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General advised DPL on restrictions on hiring individuals convicted of violating federal and local laws. Nogis, who was also convicted in 2004 on federal theft charges, also did not get a second proposed sole-source government contract worth \$40,500. Months later, the government's \$392,406 no-bid, sole-source contract to former Commerce secre-

See SHUTDOWN on Page 8



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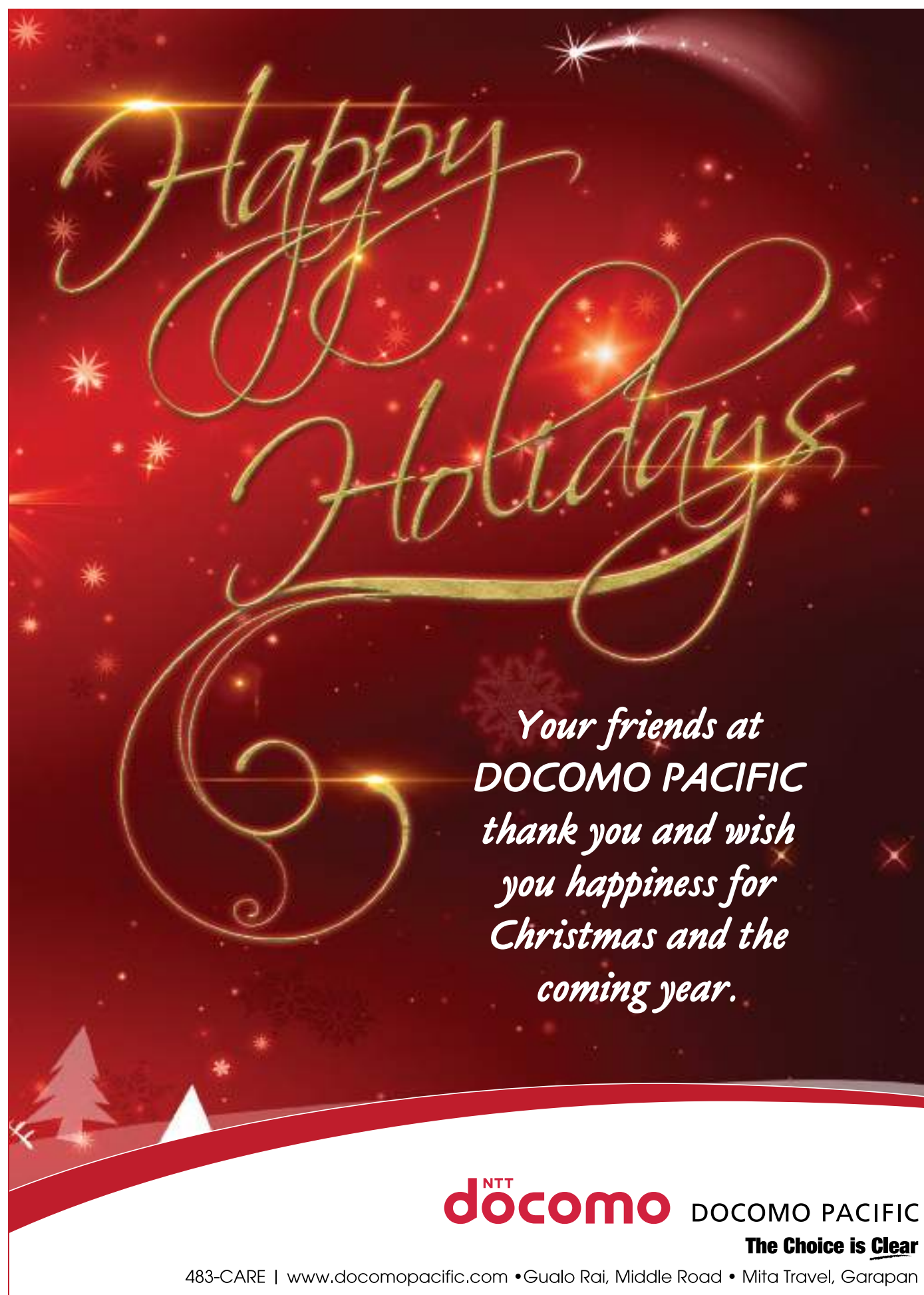
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| PEPSI | \$14⁹⁹ CASE | SEOK SU WATER 500 ML | \$499 CASE | SAMDA SOO WATER 500 ML | \$699 CASE | COFFEE MIX 20 CTS | \$159 | GM TRIPLE PACK | \$899 | SCOTCH CANDY WITH ALMOND | \$149 | GARLIC | \$169 /MET | ORANGE | 89\$ /LB. | EGG EXTRA LARGE | \$249 /DOZ. | | | | | | | | | |
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| FAMILY BAG | PORK CHOP | \$10⁹⁵ | PORK BUTT | \$9⁹⁹ | PORK ADOBO | \$9⁹⁹ | PORK SPARERIBS | \$6⁹⁹ | BEEF STEW | \$12⁹⁹ | BEEF BACKRIBS | \$6⁹⁹ | BEEF SHORTRIBS | \$12⁹⁹ | STEWING CHICKEN | \$6⁹⁹ |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|

| FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | | NON-FOOD | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| TIDE LIQUID DETERGENT | \$16⁹⁹ 100 OZ. | GAIN LIQUID DETERGENT | \$10⁹⁹ 100 OZ. | GAIN POWDER DETERGENT | \$12⁹⁹ 80 LOAD | CHARMIN TISSUE | \$699 24 ROLLS | TOILET TISSUE | \$399 10 ROLLS | BOUNTY | \$15⁹⁹ 15 ROLLS | BOUNTY | \$899 8 ROLLS | JOY | \$699 90 OZ. |
| CHARMIN TISSUE | \$799 12 BIG ROLLS | SUAVE SHAMPOO 2 FOR | \$299 | FOAM PLATE | \$799 125 CT. | FOAM CUP | \$169 51 CT. | LUVS BIG BOX | \$18⁹⁹ SIZE: 3,4,5,6 | BOUNTY NAPKIN | \$699 400 CT. | TRIO | \$299 1L. | GAS STOVE | \$14⁹⁹ |

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SHUTDOWN

From Page 6

tary Michael Ada to privately manage the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program in the CNMI drew criticism, including U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's office which oversees the national ARRA program. After bagging a \$254,459.12 contract, the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. conducted a desk audit on the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety, but the Fitial administration has yet to decide whether to heed the recommendations.

7. NMC show cause

The Northern Marianas College was constantly in the news in 2010—but all for the wrong reasons. It suffered a big blow when the Western Association of Schools and Colleges put it on show-cause status anew in June, exactly a year after it reaffirmed its accreditation. Now with 10 new team recommendations to be rectified, the institution is facing the risk of losing its accreditation if its reports don't satisfy WASC next month. NMC, the only community college on island, has had seven presidents in just 10 years—an obvious concern of leadership instability for many years. As the year started, the board—under the leadership of chair Janet King—voted

to suspend then-president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was eventually fired in April. A show-cause order was issued on June 30. Prior to the order, a special visit was conducted by WASC where they uncovered allegations of “inaccurate” information incorporated in the NMC report.

8. CHC's citation from Medicare

The discovery by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services of serious deficiencies at the Commonwealth Health Center alarmed both the government and public. It was on March 25 when Medicare released the findings of its investigation, disclosing that the Department of Public Health faces termination of its provider agreement with Medicare for noncompliance with standards and, if not addressed, the CNMI will lose about \$10 million in yearly Medicare reimbursements. Medicare determined that the documented deficiencies either individually or in combination substantially limit CHC's capacity to render adequate care or adversely affect patient health and safety. DPH's corrective measures were officially submitted to Medicare on May 6. To date, no response yet has been received from the federal agency.

9. CUC's state of emergency

For the 28th straight month since August 2008, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remained under a state of emergency due to still unreliable power, water, and sewer services. Every month, the administration extended the declaration, citing “new” problems in the utilities firm. Among them are the lack of skilled and qualified manpower to do the job in many of its divisions, lack of money to purchase equipment and services, as well as broken and damaged power plants and water connections. Since 2009, CUC has been working to address the mandates of two stipulated orders and has accumulated millions of penalties from EPA. Unscheduled power and water interruptions, in many occasions, still alarm the consuming public.

10. Fitial-Inos rift

As if the rift between House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) were not enough, longtime friends Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also had a falling out over policy and personal differences since July. The well-kept falling out started in July when Fitial first reinstated Ambrosio Ogomoro as public safety deputy commissioner that led to the resignation of Inos's daughter. The governor and lieutenant governor also had their policy differences

involving hiring and awarding of government contracts. Fitial and Inos mended their broken ties before the governor left for Palau for the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

11. 2010 Census

The CNMI participated this year in the highly successful 2010 Census. Conducted every 10 years as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census determines a complete and accurate count of people living in the United States, its territories and insular areas.

Preparations for this year's census included carrying out job fairs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, which attracted over 1,000 applicants; a poster making contest for elementary, junior high, and high school students; and the mailing out of 8,000 advance notice letters and forms to mailboxes days ahead of schedule.

On April 1, enumerator crews in yellow Census shirts began the official count of all people living in the CNMI, collecting the questionnaires and conducting follow up visits.

The Northern Marianas became the first insular area to conclude its census operations several weeks ahead of schedule. The local census office officially closed down in Aug. 31, with island residents accounted for among the 308,745,538 people living in the United States as of April 1.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 31, 1998

Amnesty seekers hit 1,000 mark

The number of overstaying aliens seeking amnesty has hit the 1,000 mark since a program granting limited immunity was put in place early this month, and the Department of Labor and Immigration said 169 of them have already been employed. The department is expecting the number to grow in view of plans by the Legislature and the administration to shorten the amnesty period from six to three months. According to Jeff Camacho, head of the task force implementing the amnesty, 1,122 illegal workers and tourists have registered under the program aimed at helping them find lawful jobs. Camacho said in a phone interview that Chinese nationals account for 48 percent of the overstayers who applied for immunity at 548, followed by Filipinos at 416.

DOC implements new policies

In a continuing effort to provide inmates, detainees and Correction officers with a safe environment, the Division of Corrections is implementing new policies that must be followed when visiting relatives in the facility. The move was due to a recent inspection of DOC's main facility where various contraband and weapons were confiscated. Under the new policy, visitors are allowed to visit inmates between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only and are allowed to stay for 30 minutes, unless a prior approval was granted by the DOC director.

Dec. 31, 2001

DPH: Public health is a public concern

The year 2001 saw the problem to close the Puerto Rico dumpsite hanging as the bidding process for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility moved at a snail's pace, while public health - not just the economy—were threatened by bioterrorism as the nation stepped to a new era of war on terrorism. This, as the Department of Public Health intensified campaign on disease prevention against diabetes, among others, as it hopes to recover from indebtedness in connection with its medical referrals to Hawaii. Besides this, most Saipan residents had to contend with buying bottled drinking water as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's supply remain to be not potable.

Chamber backs repeal of moratorium law

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously to support House Bill 12-415, which would repeal Public law 11-6 or the CNMI Moratorium Act. The Chamber reiterated its opposition to any form of a moratorium on the hiring and entry of qualified nonresident employees for job vacancies where no resident local workers are qualified and available to fill the positions. “Public Law 11-6 is no longer needed. For that matter, it was never needed. That original law was passed on the way to Washington, DC, with a laundry list of others, to appease perceived federal concern over labor and immigration matters in the CNMI,” said Chamber President Richard A. Pierce.

Dec. 31, 2002

MPLA firm vs land title transfer to CPA

Both unwavering in what they believe is the “best” for the Commonwealth, the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the Commonwealth Ports Authority show no signs of yielding to either position. Yesterday, the MPLA said it asked the CPA anew to identify which portions of public lands in Puerto Rico it wants to be designated first for its ports operations. However, MPLA Commissioner Henry Hofschneider insisted that the CPA will not get land titles. “We can grant them only use rights, they will not get title to the property or ownership. You know, those lands belong to those of NMI descents.” He made the statement amid the repeated pleadings of the ports authority to grant the agency titles over the lands, saying the property is necessary for its expansion projects.

NMC advised vs transfer of lab school

The House Committee on Education has advised the Northern Marianas College to desist from transferring its Laboratory School to the Public School System. The committee, chaired by Rep. Daniel Quitugua, made known its position in a meeting with NMC president Kenneth Wright on December 4. “They [lawmakers] made it very clear. They don't want us to transfer the Lab School,” said Wright in a recent interview. As far as he is concerned, though, Wright said he will await the decision of the NMC Board of Regents on the issue. “It's a board issue now,” he said. Wright also clarified that the issue on the school transfer actually came from Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero.

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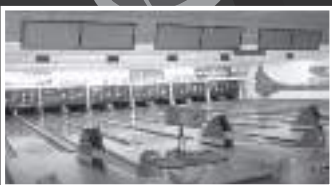
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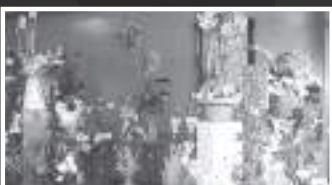
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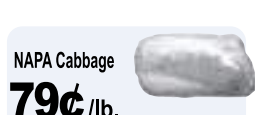
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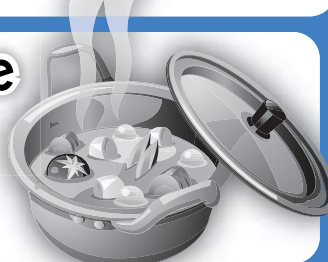
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By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan TribuneVergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

Behold, I make all things new

We pride ourselves as a God-fearing nation. "In God we Trust" is in our currency and various seals, "so help me God" terminates our oaths, "God damn" is the safe expletive of choice over our ire after we leave the post office empty handed of the rebate check we were expecting, and/or land the hammer on our nails. Nothing like messing up with the word, or reminding everyone that its use is verboten in the public schools, or cozying up with godless commies on both sides of the Amur River, will get the tea party's pot boiling.

John P. Cock, who writes a Journey Reflection blog (www.reJourney.blogspot.com) with wife Lynda and other colleagues, conduct a Profound Journey Dialogue construct that plumbs the depths of one's consciousness of the reality of ordinary existence. The four sessions are described as: Session 1, *Mysterious Reality*...dialogue about the way life is and our relationship to mystery at its heart; Session 2, *Transformative Event-Story*...dialogue about life-changing events and an empowering story; Session 3, *Emergent Context*...dialogue about the heart and breadth of vocation; and Session 4, *Caring Community*...dialogue about pioneering and sustaining community. A profoundly religious yet thoroughly secular discourse, the *dialogue* format "happens throughout, using small and large groups, meal conversations, individual reflection, and multi-media. Dialogue about the deep dimensions of our journeys can be exhilarating, intense, transforming, and celebrative."

In fact, in a recent blog, JPC gathered all the terms used in reference to the spirit world in the midst of this world and noted the following words/phrases: "Mysterious Spirit" or "Great Spirit" (aboriginal peoples), "Brahman" (Hindu universal spirit), "ineffable YHWH" (Judaic Old Testament), "the power within and among" (Aramaic New Testament), "that which is" (Augustine), "As-Salam" (one of 99 names of Allah), "*mysterium tremendum*" (Otto), "eternal Thou" (Buber), "wholly other" (Barth), "mysterious power" (Bultmann), "the One" (Niebuhr), "ground of being/meaning" (Tillich), "transparent being" (JWMathews), "God/ess" (Rosemary Ruether), "the only thing that is never absent" (Ken Wilber), "the numinous" (Thomas Berry), "the Force" (George Lucas), and "at the heart of all" (JPC). We include "*summum bunnum*," the highest good (Aristotle/Aquinas/Hegel) and "Allah" (Islam's no-thing).

JPC added ... *even if we're still trying to figure IT out (IT is neither male, female, human, nor thing), by whatever name, or none... IT is absolutely and unequivocally present—especially now—thank "G-d"!* (with the last term famously popularized by M. M. Rebbe Schneerson).

There are many theologies of consequence in our time but their relevance is shielded by pedantic obscurity; happily, the theologians of our persuasion tend to be Huffington Post-friendly before they don the ecclesiastical robe, if at all, and with our iconoclastic anti-clerical practice and demeanor (not unhappy with the spurt of media-induced focus on Christian atheism),

See BEHOLD on Next Page



Blueprint for CNMI economic rescue and recovery: A way forward

As the new year approaches, it is an opportune time to reflect on the opportunities we have missed in the past and place the challenges we are facing today in perspective in moving the CNMI forward to recovery and prosperity by executing needed policies and programs at the first break of dawn in 2011.

Today, the CNMI continues to experience problems with the lack of daily jet air services. The problem has, in fact, worsened, following the complete service pullout by Japan Airlines and Continental Airlines from Saipan. Commuter flights operated by Continental's Cape Air pulled its services completely out of the Rota this year as well, crippling not only tourism but also basic air service to and from the island. A sharp reduction in flights to Saipan by Northwest Airlines has worsened the suspension of flights by Korea's Asiana Airline, causing more damage to our ailing economy. A bright spot may be found in a recently concluded "open skies" agreement between the United States and Japan.

A recent economic tsunami originating over 5,000 miles in Washington, D.C. also swept the CNMI's immigration landscape. The federalization of immigration took away control of local immigration, causing untold damage to our tourism economy, leaving for our salvation the Department of Homeland Security's temporary parole status for Asian, European, and Pacific Rim tourists. The federal court decision on the ownership and rights to surrounding waters and undersea treasure, popularly known as the submerged lands, dealt a major blow to the CNMI's ailing economy and its future prosperity.

Instead of surrendering, as there are simply too much undersea treasures in our surrounding waters, the CNMI must explore and benefit from these resources by taking bold action in executing offshore development plan in partnership with federal agencies and the U.S. Congress. Seabed mining exploration, extraction, and royalty sharing agreement with U.S., European and Pacific Rim businesses must be fast-tracked in mining such known valuable minerals as nickel, cobalt, manganese, and other extremely valuable metals and alloys.

While we may be experiencing economic challenges from the garment pullout, the slow tourism economy, and our political status as the newest member of the U.S. political family, we should not forget that the rest of the nation is experiencing a similar crisis we are experiencing, along with our neighboring Asian economies. The CNMI's unique strengths, however, should bode well for the future. Among our economic strengths include tax

By FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO
Special to the Saipan TribuneFelicidad T. Ogumoro is a representative
for Precinct 3 and is vice speaker of the
17th House of Representatives.

rebates/ abatements on approved qualifying certificate program; duty free status on certain items for export to the U.S.; tariff advantage on qualified exports to countries other than the U.S.; exemption from the U.S. Jones Act, allowing foreign vessels in the CNMI; state-of-the-art telecommunication facilities; limited liability company law; fee simple ownership of condominium above the ground floor; time advantage for stock market trading; options in banking with federally-insured banks and non-insured offshore banks; short distance to Guam, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, China, Australia and New Zealand; and much more. If these assets are applied boldly and creatively, our economic advantages could be converted to our greatest assets required for economic recovery and prosperity.

Take for instance the once thriving garment industry—all but abandoned today. Instead of allowing these buildings, space, and equipment to go to waste, the assets must be converted into factories to add value locally. One that comes to mind is the concept of bonded warehousing. Export businesses in the U.S. could use these building at no cost. Helping the CNMI become a major transshipments port of entry would make the CNMI a major shipping center in the Pacific, helping lower freight costs as a result.

The empty garment factories could also be converted into processing value-added agricultural produce and ocean harvest (e.g., tuna, seaweed, ornamental fish production, tilapia, farm, etc.). High-priced fresh organic vegetables could be grown, for instance, in a controlled environment, such as mushroom and other types of hydroponics farming. The buildings could also be used for simulated training facilities for the hospitality industry, and even for simulated military training!

The CNMI's inventory of toxic assets also includes equities owned by Commonwealth Development Authority. Take for instance CUC's huge debt to the CDA. Instead of booking the equity

See BLUEPRINT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Things for watch for 2011

Here's what I see for the upcoming year:

As for the local economy, let's heed the fact that there's a lot to be said for predictability. And if there's one thing the CNMI offers by the truckload, it's predictability. Even the most ardent business booster can see that the Commonwealth intends to ride its economy all the way into the ground, and then turn to Uncle Sam and demand a total bailout and full financial support thereafter. That's the future, and don't lose sight of the fact that every federal dollar will turn over a number of times in the Commonwealth economy, nourishing an entire retail industry, and, in turn, feeding an entire industry of suppliers who support the retail industry.

On that note, I've drafted a list of nine or 10 types of businesses that I expect to be the most viable in the Commonwealth. I've also got a business pitfall I'll describe. We'll cover this at some point in the first quarter of 2011.

But wait, there's more: In addition to federal aid, the defense bucks are going to start circulating. Whether this will be merely tangential action from Guam or perhaps something more direct and substantial, I don't yet know. But I'll admit I have a sense of optimism about it. These dollars, too, will turn over multiple times; we're talking turbo-dollars that can really boost economic activity.

In fact, there are evidently some good niche opportunities right now. I've noticed that some of the savvy players are quietly making investments and even doing some hiring in the Commonwealth. Although these niche plays do not signal a "turnaround" in the economy, they'll be trumpeted as such, but there's no harm in that.

Meanwhile, one thing that looks sleepy at first glance, but might

prove to be a really zany circus once it gets rolling, is the Article 12 anti-alienation of land argument. This might get some attention next year, and the political contention it uncorks will be just another thing that makes everybody mad at everybody else.

Here's another thing to watch next year: prices. Prices of gas, prices of clothes, and prices of food. I mentioned this a few times in 2010, and 2011 will surely merit more discussion, as commodities markets move deeper into the second decade of the Asian century.

Wow, time flies. In the 1990s I was writing about the "upcoming" Asian century, and people thought I was nuts. Well, think about it: A dozen years ago, the U.S. was still riding high in the Clinton prosperity era, even running a fiscal surplus in fiscal year 1998, while Asia was still dealing with the hangover from its various currency crashes. Not many so-called economists could see ahead of that. Well, frankly, I sure did.

Anyway, back to the price thing. The Commonwealth is the tail, the outside world is the dog. Industrial Asia needs to buy a lot of oil, metal, grains, meat, and so on. And that's just the physical commodities side of things. The world's monetary (money supply) side of things will be a big issue in 2011, and monetary factors drive prices, too. It's not up to me to tell you which way prices are heading: You decide for yourself, and I'll decide for myself. But I'll suggest again, as I have suggested before, that you keep a hairy eyeball on the price monster.

Well, speaking of the Asian century, it's more than just an economics gig. Bigger wallets can pay for bigger muscle, and the Asian arms race is pumping iron on steroids. Big deal? You bet. This military growth spurt is going to keep going for 20 more years, at least.

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at "<http://tropicaled.com>" *TropicalEd.com*. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



Asia-Pacific military stories were already quite the buzz this year, but they'll have even more sizzle next year. The Mariana islands are now regularly mentioned in military articles.

On that note let me sneak in a postponement: Earlier this year I wrote about the Chinese Dongfeng 21-D missile, and I promised a follow-up article by the end of the year. However, the topic has gotten so much coverage elsewhere, including this week's Dec. 28 article in the *Financial Times*, that I'm going to push off thinking about it until next year.

Well, there is one more thing I anticipate being a big deal next year, and that is my worries about the Abominable Debt Monster. The West and Japan have racked up huge piles of debt, and somehow, someday, someday, this is going to be a big story. I don't know if the problems will hit as a big, major headline, or as small little nibbles as cities and pension funds go insolvent one by one. I guess we'll see.

As you can see, there's plenty on the menu for the new year, and it isn't even here yet.

Letter to the Editor

The time has come

Yes, residents of the CNMI, the time has come for you to stand up and be counted. The good speaker of the House is determined to jam a casino down our throats. You have voted "no" to the casino twice. But I guess the good speaker does not understand what "no" means. He is trying to tell everyone all the wonderful things that a casino will do for the islands. Just stop and think about it. Has he done any market research? Where are the results of the research? When things sound too good to be true, they are. It looks to me that the only people that are going to benefit from the casino is the speaker and his partners in crime. Have you noticed that now he is getting desperate? He is threatening to fire workers if he does not get his way. That would be a good thing if he could fire the 297 people that the governor hired to win the election.

People of the CNMI, you must remember that the government works for you. You put them in office and you can take them out of office. If you are as opposed to the casino as I am, please pick up the phone and call your elected rep and tell them that enough is enough. Remind them whom they are supposed to work for: the residents of the CNMI, not some special interest group.

New topic: Some time ago, I wrote a letter about streetlights. Mr. Malae responded, basically saying that I did not know what I was

talking about. Well, let's take a look at it. He stated that the mercury lights were old technology. Well, that is true and the reason that they are still around is because they work. He says that they are going to save us money. This is where he loses me. They intend to change over to LED lights. So, why are they wasting money fooling with the sodium lights? What he did not explain to the people is that to change from mercury to sodium lights you have to change the fixture. So not only do you have to buy a more expensive bulb, you have to buy a new fixture to put the bulb in. Now, if you plan to replace them anyway, is it not a waste of money to change them now? He stated that the mercury lights were made in a Third World plant. Well, it so happens that the mercury and the sodium bulbs are both made by General Electric in a plant in Hungary. The governor stated that they were changing the bulbs to get mercury off the island. Well, they need to read the packing label on the sodium bulbs. There is a warning on the label. Contains mercury. Is it any wonder that our utility rates are so high with this kind of leadership? Mr. Malae, if you wish to respond, stick to facts and figures. Not smart remarks about a clueless utility. The only clueless utility that I know of is the one you are the director of.

If you want to see how this administration is wasting our money, come north and take a look at the La Fiesta. It will make you sick to see what a mess it is.

holding companies, bonded warehousing, military contracting opportunities, environmental infrastructure opportunities, wholesaling distribution, and franchising opportunities, retirement and gated condominium communities, private-public partnerships, financial services and islands products, and countless other small business opportunities.

The economic solutions outlined above is a response to a work-in-progress by the House leadership in the 17th Legislature, in providing the requisite services and product development related to an economic rescue and recovery effort for the Commonwealth. The proposed framework of services and product development will follow a series of concrete policy and program actions that will require public input, feedback, and participation of members of our community, who will be impacted by bold actions taken by policymakers in Capital Hill.

Given the many challenges and business difficulties facing the CNMI and the assets, positive attributes, and history of lost and missed opportunities directly shaping its competitiveness in the local and global economy, moving the CNMI forward requires bold and imaginative leadership in designing creative economic policies and programs that contribute to the economic results that people care about and want to effect immediately and for the future growth and prosperity in the long run. This can be done by identifying and supporting industries with potential for job creation whose requirements are consonant with the skills and education of residents while also supporting small businesses known for creating jobs and expansion of the local tax base.

Together, we can make things happen in moving the CNMI forward in 2011 and beyond!

Members of the Visitors Authority, I want you to go to the airport at three in the morning when tourist flights are coming in. The arrival area used to be very simple. You pulled in, loaded your baggage, and got out. Well, someone had a better idea. Now the tourists have to drag their baggage to the bus parking area. Welcome to Saipan; I hope you are in good condition or you may have a problem. Is this the way we try to attract people to the island? As usual the ideas presented are mine and mine alone. But please think it over.

Frederick Prosser

As Matuis, Saipan

BEHOLD

From Page 10

though God knows, the task of deconstruction is needed to advance any field of human knowledge, we are lucid about the kitchen wisdom that understands one cannot make omelet without breaking the egg! Any favored understanding of the term G-O-D that cannot stand constant dusting, or periodic paradigm shifting, is not worth its providential status, for heaven's sake!

OK, here's today's paradigm shift: "G-o-d" is the devotional term for reality. Authority of authenticity replaces authority of scribes and scriptures. One either lives it or doesn't.

Our New Year, time-turn conditioned by our Western orientation that measures journeys in its alignment to the rotation of the sun and the position of stars, makes the solar solstice an annual notch in marking the conscious journey. This is not universal. While Europe charted events from such solar rotations *Anno Domini*, the Chinese remembers state of filial relationships in the period of the Ming and the Qing, the Qin and the Jin, the Tang and Yuan, the Sui and the Song, etc.; in Egypt, the flourishing of houses of Ramses, Akhenaten and Tutankhamun, *et al.* In the Commonwealth, we trace and track significance by genealogical ties: to the lines of Sablan and Aldan, the Taitano and the Tenorio, Camacho and Guerrero, Kaipat and Olopai, plus. It is crucial for survival, in determining monetary, psychological, and social income!

An apocalyptic thunder echoes from a sacred writing of choice that declares the onset of a New Heaven and a New Earth. "*Behold, I make all things new*" is the wisdom in the human journey that sees life as a process that cannot stand still. We are either gawkers as life happens, or we are significant participants in the mysterious journey that happens to all of us, where our unique and unrepeatable lives are invited so that the "I am" (YHWH) that each of us are, happens to and in life. No longer does life just happens to us, WE happen to life as well.

Not longevity but quality of life, I found myself mentioning to a young MHS student of our acquaintance. My dad introduced his children to an existence, "not primarily of making a living, but essentially of living a life." May we existentially know that in our bones as we recreate our lives this New Year!

BLUEPRINT

From Page 10

as "bad debt" that may not have a chance of recovery, the CNMI should instead unload and sell these idle and non-performing equities in the open market locally as preferred stocks. This should be one way of gaining local ownership over CUC, when you and I and members of the local public become owners of the public corporation. Other non-performing provider of public services should be looked into for potential management makeover, short of outright takeover by the private sector.






Many opportunities are available in the CNMI that would help in our economic recovery plan. These include tourism, education and training, light and food value-added processing industries, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture and mariculture, including exotic ventures like deep sea mining (nodules, copper, zinc, etc.) valued at over \$500 million and surface land-based pozzolan extraction valued at close to \$200 million. Converting Aguigan south of Tinian into an open wildlife laboratory for scientists around the world would net the CNMI billions of dollars. Others include professional services, catering to domestic and U.S. business clients and clientele doing business in Asia and the Pacific regions.

Potential investments are not limited to small-scale aquarium fish trade, deep-ocean aquarium, pearl farming, tropical flora and fauna, niche processed foods, transshipment and port upgrades, floating casino, convention, cultural heritage and Las Vegas style entertainment center and other opportunities, power utility coops, charitable trust

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼75° | ▲87° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼77° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 ▼78 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲87 ▼78 |
| Yap | Rain | ▲86 ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Rain | ▲84 ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲87 ▼75 |
| Kosrae | Rain | ▲86 ▼77 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲83 ▼76 |

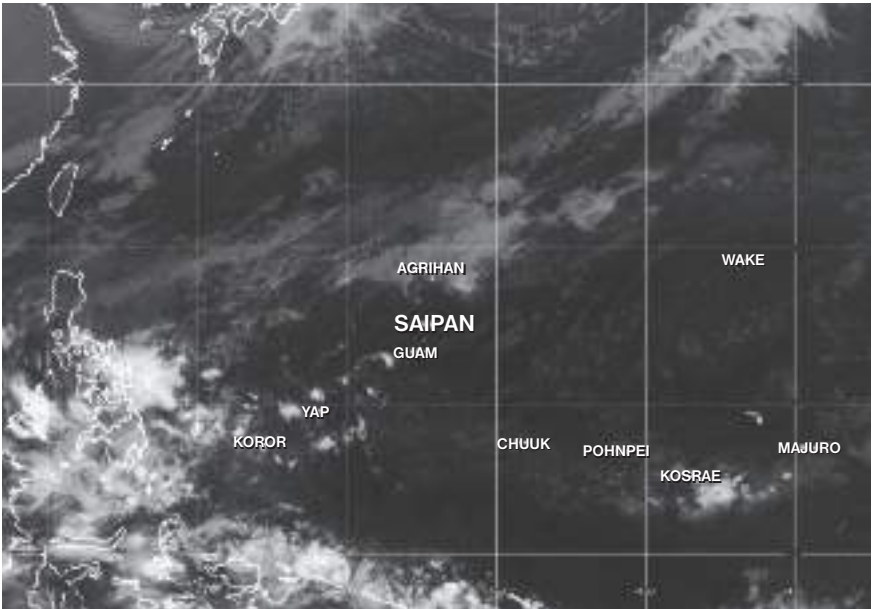
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲71 ▼63 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲33 ▼13 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲62 ▼41 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲79 ▼70 |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | ▲43 ▼37 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲57 ▼41 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲82 ▼72 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲75 ▼65 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲78 ▼62 |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | ▲39 ▼33 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲45 ▼36 |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | ▲37 ▼31 |
| Pusan | Snow | ▲44 ▼26 |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | ▲55 ▼42 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲39 ▼27 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲53 ▼48 |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲31 ▼16 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲51 ▼39 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲49 ▼38 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|--|
| 5:26 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet | |
| 9:51 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet | |
| 3:24 PM | Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet | |
| 11:12 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.3 Feet | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N180 to 20N160E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. Convergent east winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Koror and Yap between 6N and 11N from 130E to 141E. Convergent east winds are also producing scattered showers over Kosrae and south of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 4N156E to 4N165E to 8N176E and east of Pohnpei between 6N and 8N from 159E to 161E.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:43 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Saturday | 6:43 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Sunday | 6:43 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Monday | 6:44 AM | 5:59 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:44 AM | 5:59 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 2:34 AM | 2:13 PM |
| Saturday | 3:33 AM | 3:05 PM |
| Sunday | 4:32 AM | 4:01 PM |
| Monday | 5:28 AM | 4:57 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:21 AM | 5:53 PM |

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL287 | 6:10am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| DL285 | 6:40am | 9:15am | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 | DL286 | 7:45pm | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:00pm | 12:30am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) | | | | OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily | OZ120 | 9:50am | 2:20am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | OZ607 | 9:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via KIX | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 | FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | |
| CA988 | 3:15am | 6:55am | 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only | CA987 | 6:40pm | 1:55am+1 | 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ716/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4, 6 via ICN |
| C09317/891 | 4:25am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | DL172/286 | 8:05am | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| DL285/173 | 6:40am | 10:15pm | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT | C0890/9606 | 10:55am | 8:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C09313/933 | 7:55am | 9:25pm | 3 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09313/893 | 7:55am | 11:00pm | 3 via GUM-Palau | OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 5 via GUM | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:25am+1 | 6 via GUM |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 11:00pm | 5 via GUM-Palau | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/715 | 3:20pm | 11:30pm | 7 | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 7 via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | C0934/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 4 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 11:59pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 5 via GUM |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG | | | | HONG KONG-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C09603/909 | 3:05pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:35pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | C0910/9596 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| | | | | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Hooked on the Internet

By KATHERINE ELLISON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the time-honored tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous, I recently entrusted my fate to a higher power—specifically, to a new software program that shuts off my access to the Internet for a designated time.

I finally had to acknowledge that I was helpless in the face of my addiction, which has had me, especially in recent weeks, tapping my e-mail “refresh” button like a lab rat trying to get cocaine.

I know I’m not alone in my hardwired weakness for novelty. Yet while constantly seeking out new things was once a helpful instinct that alerted us to new foods, mates or danger, it’s now a siren’s call to being chronically overwhelmed. Even best-selling novelist Jonathan Franzen recently confessed to using superglue to block the Ethernet connection on his computer.

Like Franzen (OK, maybe not quite like Franzen) I have a new book out, which has raised my chronic level of Internet

checking several-fold. Why labor over a metaphor when I can check my moment-to-moment ranking on Amazon? Why struggle with a transition when Google Alerts may be telling me at this very moment that my book was featured on yet another tiny blog?

What makes it all worse is that my publisher has encouraged me to leap into the mind-sucking Internet vortex: to put up a Facebook page and post on it regularly, to join LinkedIn, send e-mail “blasts” and tweet away. And this raises a particular problem, in that my book chronicles my year-long effort to curb extraneous distractions so as to focus on what’s truly important.

Time-wasting, procrastination and the appeal of putting others in charge of our productivity, with deadlines and other kinds of whip-snapping, didn’t start with the invention of e-mail. As James Surowiecki notes in a recent column in the New Yorker, Victor Hugo used to work in the nude, telling his valet to hide his clothes so as to prevent him from going

outside when he was supposed to be writing.

Today, I’ve got a virtual valet, courtesy of Fred Stutzman, who came up with the Internet-blocking program, called Freedom, as a graduate student, when he needed to finish his dissertation. For a one-time fee of \$10, you can tell it to shut off your portal to the outside world for up to eight hours, and are discouraged from cheating by the fact that disabling it requires you to boot up your computer anew.

Stutzman has since sold his program to more than 75,000 people, and gone on to design a new venture, called Anti-Social, which, for \$15, shuts off your access to top time-wasting sites including Facebook, LinkedIn, Friendster, StumbleUpon and even EHarmony, DateHookup and OkCupid. “You’ll be amazed what you can get done without the distraction of friends,” he promises, without any obvious hint of wistfulness.

I once dated a guy who amazed me by his ability to ignore a ringing phone. Em-

barrassing as it is to admit, this was in the days before everyone had an answering machine. In the years since, technological progress appears to have overtaken intellectual evolution, however, setting us up for the ironical emergence of programs like Freedom. If we can’t beat computers, why not put them in charge?

By KATHERINE ELLISON
Los Angeles Times

Katherine Ellison is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and the author, most recently, of *Buzz: A Year of Paying Attention*, a memoir about being a mom diagnosed with ADHD. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Politricks: Part II (The rise and fall)

Regardless of what you know, it is unlikely you’ll get hired if you are waving the wrong political banner. Isn’t it been like that since ever since? That’s one of the reasons why our government is not productive. We need change but will it ever come? Now that the Covenant Party is weakening as I predicted, and many others too, a way to hold on to power is to merge with a nationally known party, the Republican Party, which will dominate the incoming U.S. House of Representatives. But the Covenant Party’s power shift is nothing more than a ploy to hold on to power because no one seems to have faith anymore in the cur-

rent administration’s promises, not even it’s own loyal followers.

I remember years back when they said “down with the Republicans and Democrats!” In order to save the face of backdoor hires, this administration has no route but go back to a recognized party. One can tell that the Covenant Party is weakening when Kilili secured District 2 last election. What an upset to the Covenant Party! I didn’t even see that coming. The people in that area, and everywhere else, grew weary and tired. They had come out from closed curtains, fed up with the failed promises said to them.

In this era of confusion, we

find ourselves confused and dazed from what the administration will do next. Yes, there were many first, here are some notable: second highest official jailed, we endured power failures, the Chinese takeout incident, government shutdown, austerity measures, tax rebate delays, fire and hire games, the rift among House members, power disconnection in government offices, everything but the kitchen sink. Be thankful for making it today and the days before because we do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Here we go again

Another gas price hike in less than a month? Our leaders have been busy appointing individuals to critical positions and we see nothing as a result. Wake up Marianas, look into this because not only are people suffering from these increases, the people are not even getting their

checks on time and to further the burden, they are not getting pay increases due to economic woes. David and Goliath are experiencing the time of their lives. DCCA having power and water disconnected is no laughing matter. The CNMI government is trying to save money and yet employees are

being sent home on administrative leave? What kinds of strategy or options are being applied to these situations? Unbelievable! Do what your constituents expect when they put you in public office!

Jack Taitano
New York



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The Saipan Tribune will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, in celebration of the New Year.

There will therefore be no newspaper on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

The Saipan Tribune Person of the Year and Year-end Reports will be published in the Dec. 31 edition of the newspaper.

Hafa Adai!

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Extended hours to sell, serve alcohol today

Today, Dec. 31, 2010 (New Year's Eve), the hours to sell and serve alcoholic beverages are extended to 4am, according to a Commerce Department notice yesterday.

These extended hours are only for the evening of Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, until 4am on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

This authorization does not allow for further expansion of the extended hours. Any abuse of this extension will not be tolerated. This authorization only applies to Class-3 On-Sale licenses. Contact the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division Hotline at 483-1821 to report any violation of the extended hours of sale. (PR)

NMC spring 2011 registration schedule

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that registration for the upcoming spring 2011 semester will be ongoing from Jan. 10 to Jan. 15, 2011. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number. New students can begin registering on Jan. 12, 2011.

- **Jan. 10:** Registration for students with PC No. 000000100 through 000010350
- **Jan. 11:** Registration for students with PC No. 000010351 through 000013150
- **Jan. 12:** Registration for students with PC No. 000013151 through 000014950
- **Jan. 13:** Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- **Jan. 14:** Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- **Jan. 15:** Late registration

Students may register between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and between 9am and 12pm on Saturday.

For more information or inquiries, visit the NMC Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537. (NMC)

Art of Marriage Conference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or e-mail on-lyljille@yahoo.com. For more information you can visit www.familylife.com/theartofmarriage. (PR)

Court sets Jan. 20 hearing on Villagomez, Santos motions

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has set a Jan. 20 hearing on the motion of former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez and former Commerce secretary James A. Santos and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos, to be released on bail pending the conclusion of their appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The hearing is slated at 9am before federal judge Michael Mosman.

Based on the joint motion filed on Dec. 23 by the defendants' lawyers, they said their clients pose no risk of flight or danger to the public if released pending appeal. They also pointed out that relevant precedent requires that they present

a "fairly debatable" appellate question in order to secure a release order under the statute.

"Based on this court's recent findings concerning relevant events in this court, the actions and omissions of the trial judge and court security staff in completely excluding the public from attending any portion of the jury [selection] arguably violated defendants' Sixth Amendment right to a public trial...and related precedent."

The lawyers cited the case of Presley v. Georgia and argued that "such violation is a structural error that mandates reversal as a matter of law without any further prejudice."

They urged the court to order the defendants' release on bail under such conditions as were previously imposed while they

were still awaiting trial.

Villagomez, 48, and the Santosos were convicted of bribery, theft, and wire fraud charges. The former lieutenant governor was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison while James Santos, 49, and Joaquina V. Santos, 51, each received a sentence of six years and six months in prison.

Villagomez is currently in a Tucson, Arizona prison, while Joaquina Santos is an inmate in Dublin, California. Her husband is in jail in Atwater, California.

Federal jurors pronounced the three guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

Villagomez is the highest ever CNMI official to be convicted in a criminal case. He is the brother of Joaquina V. Santos, who is married to James A. Santos.



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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

Critical employees saved from payless payday, for now

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Critical service employees like police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, doctors and nurses can now heave a sigh of relief as the Fital administration was able to add more to its cash collection to be able to meet their payroll today.

The central government needs \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million to meet the payroll of critical employees.

But non-critical service employees will not get their paychecks until at least Wednesday next week, or days after the New Year festivities. This will depend on whether the government could collect some \$1.2

million for their payroll.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview yesterday, said as of Wednesday, the central government didn't have enough money to meet the payroll for all critical government employees but this changed by Thursday afternoon.

"We needed \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million to be able to timely meet the release of their paychecks. As of [Wednesday], we didn't have enough to pay all critical employees, so it became a challenge. We'd rather find a way to pay all critical rather than go down and select which ones among critical [employees] will get paid," Inos told Saipan Tribune at the distribution of free

compact fluorescent light bulbs and reusable shopping bags at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

Inos said the administration would know the final word by end of business hours yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, as of late yesterday afternoon, confirmed that critical service employees will get their paychecks on time.

"The government was fortunately able to collect just enough funds to allow for the

timely release of payroll for critical services personnel. As for non-critical services personnel, we continue to address this issue and we will closely monitor cash collections over the coming days before we can project a disbursement date for next week," he said.

Federally-funded employees will also get paid on time.

Non-critical employees who are already subject to a 16-hour pay cut every pay period and unpaid holidays are disappointed with another delayed

payroll. They said they were hoping to have a happier New Year celebration, but the delayed payroll dampened the occasion.

This is at least the seventh time that the CNMI government will have a partial payless payday since June 2010 because of severe cash shortage. This is also the first in CNMI history that delayed payroll has become a frequent occasion.

The average local government payroll is \$4 million. Of

this figure, some \$1.2 million is for the Public School System and some \$300,000 for the Northern Marianas College, but both of which are required to be paid under the Maintenance of Effort between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education. Inos said this is a "fixed" amount.

The other \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million is for the payroll of critical employees, and the other \$1.2 million or so is for the payroll of non-critical employees.

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mayor Donald G. Flores urged young women to undergo Pap Smear tests annually to lower

the death rate of cervical cancer cases in the CNMI.

Flores signed yesterday a proclamation designating January 2011 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month at the Mayor's Office conference room.

In his proclamation, the mayor said over 60 cases of cervical cancer have been diagnosed in the CNMI in the past 10 years, twice higher than Hawaii and the mainland.

According to Flores, cervical cancer does not have early symptoms, so a woman would feel discomfort only when the cancer develops.

"Cancer develops slowly, and in many cases, can be prevented through screening and treatment of pre-cancerous conditions," he said.

Flores encouraged women young and old to visit the Commonwealth Health Center and take the Pap Smear test to prevent the deadly disease.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, 2010 Liberation Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua,

and cervical cancer survivor Terry Iginoef joined Flores in lighting candles during the proclamation signing attended by community members and cancer prevention partners.

Villagomez disclosed DPH's plans to do a human papillomavirus vaccination campaign for young female students once classes resume next week.

"We want to encourage the community to come together to prevent this disease that has taken the lives of many people," he said.

Fifty-one year old Iginoef told Saipan Tribune that cervical cancer prevention should be done at an early age.

Iginoef, who has been a survivor for 15 years, added that young women should avail of the HPV vaccine to lessen the chances of getting cervical cancer.

Comprehensive cancer control program coordinator Joanne Ogo said a number of activities have been lined up for January, including food demonstrations, celebrity bagging, HPV vaccination, and a health forum.

Have a Safe Holiday Season.

**National/CNMI Holiday Season
Impaired Driving Month
November 29, 2010 through January 3, 2011**



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EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2011 AT 12:00AM

TO AVOID SERVICE INTERRUPTION, PLEASE
SWITCH TO DOCOMO PACIFIC'S OPTIMIZED
GSM SERVICE NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF
BUSINESS THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR GUALO RAI LOCATION
TODAY OR CALL 483-CARE (2273)

MAY 2011 BRING INSPIRATION, HAPPINESS,
PEACE, LOVE AND PROSPERITY
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

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New Year!
2011*

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MANAGEMENT
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Shopping Center, Saipan
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**CONSTRUCTION
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IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas means sharing, caring, learning, creating

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa began their Christmas celebrations with a traditional caroling for hospital patients and nurses,

followed by dinner at the parsonage.

IUMC's children had spent a month creating a Nativity. Making 12 swinging angels for the

Heavenly Host, the manger and 10 lambs seemed to be the children's favorites. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in crèche, shepherds, wise men, even Herod, back-



SOL CORPUZ

IUMC children pose with the Nativity they made and the gifts given to Saipan children without gifts.

ground village, stars and all others were made by the children and youth. Each week, as Pastor Millie Carroll read sections of scripture beginning with angel Gabriel visiting Mary, children acted the scripture with their Nativity figures.

On Christmas Sunday, the Nativity was complete in scene and figures and ready for the whole story. Adults began the Christmas Pageant by playing the major characters with a one-sentence memory of the night of Jesus' birth. Angel Gabriel, acted by Serafina Rogoyawa, ended with "It was all so wonderful. I wish we could live Jesus' birth again." The children sang out, "You can! You can! Come! Come close!" All crowded around the Nativity as the children acted the complete story to the reading of Jesus' birth.

Lay Leader Losana Rogoyawa said, "The children, youth that assisted, and their teachers,

Pam Carhill and Sol Corpuz, made the story come alive as we watched. And it was a wonderful way of having it become alive in the children's lives too."

On an earlier Sunday, children as wise people from the East presented a huge box at the altar, labeled Gifts for Jesus (toys for Saipan children). Carroll had emphasized that this kind of giving is giving to Jesus. On Christmas Sunday the congregation presented their offerings to the hymn, "What can I give Him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what can I give him, give my heart." And each taped their heart on the Jesus gift box.

Part of Carroll's prayer: "When we give our hearts to Jesus we give our all—our love, our caring for others, for the world, for peace, and our promise to Jesus to work for all of these."

Refreshment time included children blowing out candles on Jesus' birthday cake and singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."

Christian Education chair Pam Carhill said, "Christmas Eve dinner, followed by the Candle Light Service, were especially meaningful with members of St. Paul Episcopal Church and others joining. A special offering was taken for Guma Esperansa, Saipan's shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. IUMC has been invited to St. Paul's New Year's Eve Service."

Immanuel United Methodist Church welcomes readers to Worship Services and Sunday School 9am in Chalan Kanoa (Chalan Kanoa Drive, east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral). Although very international, services are in English. For further information, contact Carroll at 322-6158. (PR)



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Accounting Supervisor/Assistant Manager
SALARY: \$6.00 - \$7.50

Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience preferred. CPA strongly recommended but not required.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard
SALARY: \$5.05 per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Prim/Kid's College Assistant
SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and childcare experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Gift Shop Cashier
SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year of cashier (or related field) and customer service experience preferred.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Personnel Assistant
SALARY: \$5.05 - \$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and experience in resident and nonresident employee processing required. Knowledge of government regulations and licenses preferred.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Local Market Manager
SALARY: \$20,000 - \$25,000/per annum

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in marketing, business, or other related fields from an accredited college or university strongly preferred. As a management level position, three (3) years work experience in a management or supervisory capacity required. Self-motivated individual with outgoing personality is a plus. Salary can be negotiated based on applicant's qualifications and work experience.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office.

In The Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands

In the Matter of
The Estates of
Ramon DLG. Bermudes and Theodora M. Bermudes

Civil Action No. 95-591

Order of Distribution:

Lot 012 H 19 to Alex M. Bermudes, in fee simple, provided that he does not alienate, transfer, sell, lease, rent or otherwise relinquish possession and control to any other person, entity, organization or group until the earlier of either (1) the date and time of January 1, 2017 at 12:01 a.m., or (2) HIS DEATH. This restriction does not operate against any cohabitation by the siblings, half siblings, spouse, or children.

The quitclaim deed to Barbara Bermudes Feger executed on May 5, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder File No. 92-1631 is without any legal effect.

Lot 012 H 19 is located in Chalan Kanoa District #4 behind the L&F Market and Outlet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PORTFOLIO/SECURITIES MONITORING SERVICES

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from legal counsel(s) with significant experience and expertise in evaluating, monitoring and carrying out securities fraud litigation for public/private trust and/or pension plans. The monitoring, evaluation advice and counseling services would be offered at NO COST to MPLT.

Interested firms are asked to submit proposals outlining their ability to serve in the roles of monitoring, evaluation and litigation counsel.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services requested will include but not limited to:

- Monitor MPLT's investments for any losses that may have occurred as a result of a violation or potential violation of securities laws or a breach of any duty owned to the Trust
- Provide legal research, analysis, advice and guidance with respect to securities law;
- Provide MPLT with securities monitoring and administration services that will provide MPLT with expert legal advice and litigation-related services;
- Be responsive on a "as needed" basis to confer with and provide recommendations to MPLT regarding case status, strategies, and potential settlement or other resolution of cases

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

One original and Five copies of the sealed clearly marked "Portfolio Monitoring Services Proposal" RFP 11-01, shall be submitted to the attention of Mr. Phillip Mendiola-Long, MPLT Chairman, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, January 31, 2011.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above. The RFP is also available online at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG

Trades Institute gets \$10,000 donation from FHB Foundation

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—The Northern Marianas Trades Institute has been given a \$10,000 grant by the First Hawaiian Bank Foundation, the charitable arm of First Hawaiian Bank, according to an announcement yesterday by Don Horner, chairman and chief executive officer. The funds will be used to purchase supplies and equipment for construction trades students at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The \$10,000 donation was presented to NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino by First Hawaiian Bank vice president and area manager Juan Lizama.

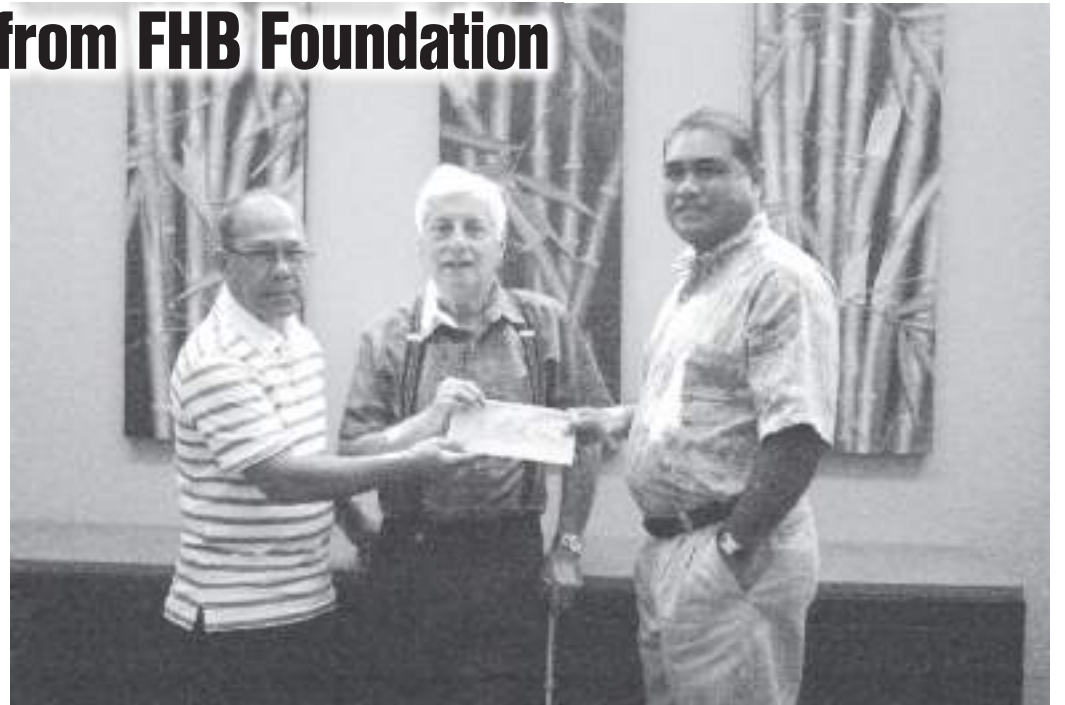
"First Hawaiian Bank is proud

to be supporting NMTI's efforts in helping our local residents get the training and the skills they need to qualify for higher paying construction jobs," said Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank's senior vice president and CNMI region manager.

"At NMTI we provide opportunities for individuals to be trained in the fields of plumbing, electrical, painting and masonry and this generous grant from First Hawaiian will go a long way in helping us purchase the tools and supplies for our students to succeed, said Pellegrino. "We want to thank First Hawaiian for supporting us in our time of need."

Established in 2008, the NMTI is certified by the National Center for Construction, Education and Research, which is affiliated with the University of Florida. The NMTI is also closely affiliated with the Guam Contractors Association. Students graduating from NMTI will be able to work in the CNMI, Hawaii, and the U.S.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) has three branches on Guam and two branches on Saipan. The bank has total assets of over \$14.3 billion. For over 152 years, First Hawaiian has been providing its customers with Service, Solutions and Security. **(FHB)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right is Victorino S. Cepeda, education director of NMTI; Anthony Pellegrino, president of NMTI; and Juan Lizama, First Hawaiian Bank vice president and area manager.

14 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Aqua Resort Club, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai frainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach frainage, Sugar Dock, Jeffries Beach,

Hidden Beach, and Old Man by the Sea and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (en-

terococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

Limtiaco warns vs celebratory gunfire

As the islands prepare to welcome the New Year, S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco is encouraging citizens to be, first and foremost, mindful of safety, and to be vigilant and report any unauthorized and/or illegal firearm or gun activities to federal and local law enforcement authorities.

Reports of unauthorized and/or illegal gun activities can be made to the Guam Police Department by calling 911 or 472-8911/2. If you have information of people who have committed unauthorized and/or illegal gun activities and would like

to make a report, you may also contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at 472-7129.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and ATF wants everyone to know that celebratory gunfire is not only unsafe, it is against the law. Discharging a firearm into the air is a crime and can lead to felony charges under Guam law or federal charges if that person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Bullets shot into the air can climb up two miles and then fall at a rate of 300 to 700 feet per second, killing or injuring

those that are struck.

"We are reminded that a 6-year-old Yigo girl was injured in the head by a falling bullet while attending a New Year's Eve celebration in 2009," Limtiaco said.

Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Justice initiative, *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to work with local and federal law enforcement and the community to prevent and reduce gun violence and promote safety within our island community. **(USAO)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to EJ Montano, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 31, 2010! Greetings coming from Ninang Jane Montano and family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 6th birthday to Marion John R. Sayas, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 31, 2010. Greetings come from Daddy Mhar, Mommy Chielo, Marchie, and Mitch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kevin's Department Store

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

UNTIL JANUARY 5, 2011 • 15% - 50% DISCOUNT

- ▶ **TOYS AND GIFT ITEMS**
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**
- ▶ **HOME & OFFICE FURNITURES:**
BEDROOM SET, KIDS BEDROOM SET, BED, SOFA, DINING SET, CABINET, DRAWER AND MORE.
- ▶ **FLOWERS**
- MORE THAN 100 CHOICES OF SILK FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS. (WEDDINGS, PARTIES, CHRISTMAS, ETC.)
- WHOLESALE ORDERS & PERSONAL DESIGNS AVAILABLE
- ▶ **FABRICS**
CUSTOMIZE CURTAIN, SOFA, SATIN, BAMBOO AND ALUMINUM DRAPES
- ▶ **CARPET**
VINYL FLOOR TILE, FLOOR MATS AND AREA RUGS
- ▶ **CUSHION AND MATTRESS FOAM**
ANY SIZES WITH 1", 2" & 4" THICKNESS
- ▶ **WE BUY USED SOFA (IN CASH)**
- ▶ **WE ALSO DO SOFA UPHOLSTERY**
- ▶ **HOUSES FOR RENT**
- ▶ **HARDWARE:**
G.I. PIPE, CERAMIC TILES & ROOFING TIN

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x14 |
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x16 |
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x18 |
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x20 |
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x22 |
| ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE) | 3x24 |

SALE

Come visit our store to see more of our items on display and sample!
Located beside Post Office in Chalan Kanoa or Call us now at 234-8866 or 287-8866

December is C.N.M.I.

AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

CHECK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DEAL WITH HIV:

**KEEP THE
PROMISE
NOW!**



**WORLD
AIDS
CAMPAIGN**



- ✓ Get tested for HIV.
- ✓ Learn about your risks for getting HIV.
- ✓ Decide not to do the things that put you at risk.
- ✓ Practice safer methods to prevent HIV.
- ✓ Talk with family, friends, and colleagues about HIV prevention.
- ✓ Support people living with HIV.
- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.



For more Information, Testing and Confidential Services,
Contact the HIV/STD Resource & Treatment Center at 664-4050
www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm
www.worldaidscampaign.org
www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/

Paid for with funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Business

When Elizabeth Miyata was still living in Japan, she was always glued to the television, watching cooking shows with a pen and notebook on hand. She would then try out the recipes and let her friends taste the results of her culinary experiments.

That penchant for cooking and the easy way she has around the kitchen has given rise to one of the more successful small businesses on the island, Jhem's Restaurant, which Miyata runs as its general manager.

Located next to Skechers along Beach Road, Jhem's Restaurant offers authentic Filipino flavors and specialties served in true *Pinoy* fashion.

Miyata initially opened Jhem's as a barbecue stand and fresh fish store back in September 2005. "We already had a permit for a restaurant at that time but we only opened one about three months later," she said.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Miyata also revealed that she never had entrepreneurial experience to begin with, let alone knowledge in the food business. Yet it was her penchant for cooking that gave her the idea to open a restaurant on Saipan when she and her family moved here in 2005 after living for eight years in Japan. It took Miyata a solid year, however, to finally persuade her engineer husband to agree to her business proposition.

Miyata's plan, however, wasn't just to open a run-of-the-mill food establishment. The restaurant she wanted to set up would be derived from her favorite restaurant in Manila. "I have always loved *binalot* meals. I would go to the mall and order one for myself," she recounted.

With this idea in mind, Miyata and two other staff established the first and only restaurant on Saipan that provides diners with skillfully prepared Filipino dishes served on banana leaves.

When it came time to think up of a name for the new business, Miyata decided to go with the initials of her son, company president Jun Hitoshi (JH) and hers (EM)—JHEM.

Jhem's had very humble beginnings. Its modest space—two dine-in tables, a tiny counter, and kitchen—only allowed them to offer mostly take-out and delivered food service, patterned after Japan's hustle and bustle food trade.

Jhem's initial entrees were the timeless *binalot* meals: a choice of tocino, *tapa*, longganisa or fish served either with white rice, fried eggplant, salted egg, tomatoes, and shrimp paste or garlic rice with egg. Then there were the classics: chicken and pork adobo, pork *binagoongan*, and *nilagang baka*.

What the restaurant lacked in size it made up for the number of its customers. Jhem's dishes have caught the attention of so many customers that food delivery has become a very demanding and tiring task.

"I remember I had a regular customer at the hospital and that customer always teased me that I should ask my boss to increase my salary, not knowing that I was in charge of the restaurant," Miyata recalled fondly.

Five years later, Jhem's has developed into a full-fledged—arguably the most well-known—Filipino restaurant on Saipan, providing customers with a smorgasbord of *Pinoy* dishes with the addition of popular menu items such as sizzling *sisig*, crispy *pata*, pancit, including the irresistibly creamy dessert, *leche flan*.



Jhem's Restaurant general manager Elizabeth Miyata, seated center, poses with her reliable and friendly staff inside the restaurant, located along Beach Road in Garapan.

CLARISSA DAVID

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Jhem's Restaurant endures through tough times

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maintaining quality

To survive in an industry where competition remains tight, Miyata deems it essential to maintain the quality of food they serve.

"At Jhem's, we never compromise on the quality of food. It doesn't matter whether we have profit or not. We can guarantee that our customers only get the freshest and most delicious dishes," she said.

Miyata said that all the menu items they serve, including the fares that vary on a daily basis, are cooked upon a customer's order. Her highly dependable kitchen staff prepare a limited number of servings for each dish which, when not consumed entirely at the end of the day, are given away and are never recycled for next day's menu.

Although Miyata herself worked as Jhem's cook during its initial stage, she has now taken the back seat as she painstakingly guides her staff on the ropes of food preparation, teaching them about measurements and techniques to create the food that customers enjoy.

These days, Miyata just visits the kitchen armed with a plate and a spoon to taste the food and decide whether or not the dish can leave the kitchen and be served to customers.

Jhem's takes pride not only in serving quality dishes but also in providing customers with unmatched levels of hygiene at the restaurant. In fact, the dining place has consistently been graded A by the Health and Sanitation Office.

Unexpected success

Miyata stated matter of factly that she never imagined Jhem's would be such a big hit on Saipan since restaurants come and go on the island, particular-

ly as the CNMI is still suffering from an economic recession that has closed down a lot of businesses.

Miyata acknowledged, however, the many bumps they encountered along the way, like having a stable banana leaf supplier. "Finding banana leaves was a very hard task. Back then, we would look for and solicit banana leaves from home owners and cut them from the trees ourselves," she said.



One day, with providence on their side, one diner offered to supply them with their banana leaf needs. The same person has been their supplier for the last four years.

Then there were the bigger issues of minimum wage hike, the departure of a substantial number of island residents, even the government shutdown. Even now, Miyata is still amazed that Jhem's was able to defy all snags and remains unperturbed by challenges. "We're fortunate and very thankful," she added.

Customer satisfaction

The self-effacing manager is not only thankful for having survived tough economic times. Every thriving restaurant has an esteemed place among locals and visitors, and Miyata is equally grateful that Jhem's reputation got them a steady pool of fine folks who patronize their restaurant unflinchingly.

"Customer satisfaction is key. As much as possible, we try to go out of our way to serve our diners the best way we can," she said.

True enough, Jhem's has satisfied

the distinctive appetites of people of all walks of life, be it Filipinos, Chamorros, Japanese, Koreans, Americans or Chinese. Miyata bashfully shares that the highest elected official of the CNMI already has a favorite table at the restaurant.

Without any kind of marketing and promotion, Jhem's has become well-known even among Guamanians that they would call beforehand and place their food orders as they board their flight to Saipan.

According to Miyata, they also take care of their customers by having the kitchen staff interact with them and make them feel at home. "Maintaining a healthy relationship with the customers makes them feel special, like family," she added.

Miyata fervently hopes that customers will continue to support Jhem's years from now. "As long as I'm here, rest assured that we will do everything to offer you the kind of food you've grown to love here at Jhem's. We will strive harder to provide you only the best service," she assured them.

'We are family'

Just as Miyata is thankful to patrons, she is also thankful to the 13 men and women who have contributed to the restaurant's success.

Miyata cannot emphasize enough how fortunate she is for having the kind of staff that work hard to meet the needs of their diners. "Jhem's can never go this far without my hardworking and trustworthy staff. I'm blessed," she said.

As a family business, Jhem's is operated by Miyata, her siblings, and their families. Nonetheless, Miyata has welcomed with open arms other employees

whom she also treats like a family. She acknowledged the role they play and the work they do for the restaurant.

In return, Jhem's employees receive their wages in full and on time. Additionally, they get recognized during their annual Christmas party.

"I see the work that they do and observe how they perform every day. I give out awards each year to motivate them to work harder," said Miyata.

This year's holiday shindig, held at Aoi Restaurant at Saipan Grand Hotel on Christmas Day, recognized Lourdes Dionisio and Josephine Dionisio for Best Employee in kitchen and dining, respectively. Another award, the Most Outstanding Employee, went to chief cook Almira Tengco.

"Our boss is very caring and generous. Whatever requests we have, be it vacation leave or financial support, she grants it as long as it's reasonable," said Tengco.

Indeed, Miyata's bigheartedness is manifested as she hands Christmas bonus every year, with or without profits. Even awardees receive cash incentives, too.

"*Basta meron ako, meron din sila. Kahit nga walang kita, meron pa rin sila.* I want them to know that Jhem's will not be here without them and I also encourage them to perform well every day," she said.

For her part, Miyata also instills in them the importance of loving what you do. "I always tell my staff to put your heart on whatever you do. When you love your job, your output would be fantastic," she said.

Miyata added that she wants all the staff to cultivate solicitude for the company. "I remind them that the restaurant is their bread and butter. I want them to love Jhem's because it's theirs, too. And I see that they do," she said.

Future plans

In a span of five years, Jhem's has already undergone expansion and development three times, a clear indication of its stronghold among island diners. And since 2010 has been a great year for Jhem's, Miyata disclosed that plans are underway to make the coming year even bigger and better.

According to Miyata, she plans to enclose the outdoor area so that diners will delight in the comfort of extra air-conditioned space.

Miyata intends to introduce in early 2011 an eat-all-you-can breakfast buffet. For just \$7.75, Jhem's patrons can enjoy morning favorites like scrambled eggs, bacon, fried rice, and pancake with your choice of coffee and juice.

Due to insistent customer demand, Miyata disclosed that they also plan to make the *Pinoy* holiday delicacies *puto bumbong* and *bibingka* a part of their regular menu.

If the military buildup pushes through, plans to have another branch on island or in Guam are already on top of Miyata's to-do list.

"We are just so thankful that, for five years, the support of the community has been so overwhelming. With their help, we can all work together and expect greater things from Jhem's. Customer satisfaction is our priority," said Miyata.

Whether you are craving a *binalot* or want the best crispy *pata* in town, visit Jhem's for authentic Filipino offerings. Jhem's Restaurant is open every day from 10am to 10pm. All major cards accepted. For dine-in, take-out or delivery orders, call 233-5436.

**WE ACCEPT
WIC PROGRAM
AND
FOODSTAMP**

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

New Year Special

DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 10, 2011 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

**20%-25% DISCOUNT
ON SELECTED TOY ITEMS**

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

**FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE**

Leg Quarter
22 LBS. **\$15⁹⁹**
\$14⁹⁹
5 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 31 TO JAN. 2

Whole Chicken
LIMIT 1 CASE
\$35⁹⁹
\$34⁹⁹
5 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 31 TO JAN. 2

Young Spare Ribs
10 LBS.
\$18⁹⁹ Limit 1

Pork Spareribs
BBQ/Adobo Cut
20 LBS. **\$21⁹⁹**
\$20⁹⁹ Limit 1
5 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 31 TO JAN. 2

Beef Back Spare Ribs
20 LBS. **\$25⁹⁹**

Gusto Smoked Ham/Whole Turkey
\$1⁹⁹ /POUND

Mackerel
PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. **\$22⁹⁹**
\$1²⁹ /LB.
PIKE (uneven weight per case)

Sea Port Black Tiger Prawns
1lb. **\$4⁹⁹**

Wilkins Distilled Water
6000ml **\$2⁹⁹** Limit 2

SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh
500ml. x 20 **\$5⁹⁹** /CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) **\$25⁹⁹**

Diamond G Calrose Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) **\$26⁹⁹**

Sapporo Ichiban
21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1) **\$8⁹⁹** /CASE

Marukiyo Rice Cracker
100pcs. **\$84⁹⁹**

MH Coffee Mix
100 sticks **\$6⁹⁹** LIMIT 1

Milo 1kg. **\$5⁹⁹** Limit 2
Nescafe Classic 210g. **\$5⁹⁹** Limit 2

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham
10 lbs. **\$16⁹⁹**
Bar-S Ham
10 lbs. **\$17⁹⁹**

Miller Sausage
5 lbs. **\$15⁹⁹**

Chamorro Sausage
Reg/Hot 1 lb. **\$4⁹⁹**

Bar-S Bacon
1 lb. **\$2⁹⁹**

Bar-S Hotdog
1 lb. **\$1¹⁵**

Fish 4 You Crab Meat Stick
16 oz. **\$1⁹⁹**

Ground Beef
5 LBS. **\$9⁹⁹** 10 LBS. **\$17⁹⁹**

Bar-S Hotlinks
24 oz. **\$3⁹⁹**

Mackarel/Pike Family Bag
\$6⁹⁹

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand
1 lb. **\$2⁹⁹**

Ocean Best Marinara Mix
1 lb. **\$2⁴⁹**

Blue Crab Section
Per Box **\$8⁹⁹**

Vega Shrimp
1 lb. **\$5⁵⁰** Limit 1

Imperial Choice Green Mussels
2 lbs. **\$4⁹⁹**

Chicken Wings
3 lbs. **\$6⁹⁹** 5.5 lbs. **\$12⁹⁹**

Milk Fish
\$1³⁹ /LB

Tilapia
\$9⁹⁹ /LB

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen
\$2³⁹

Onion
79¢ /LB

Garlic
\$1³⁹ /BUNDLE

Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case **\$20⁹⁹** 3 DAYS ONLY DEC. 31 TO JAN. 2

Foam Cups
51 cts. **\$1⁹⁹**

Bounty Basic
15 ROLLS **\$16⁹⁹**

Bounty 15 Rolls
\$20⁹⁹

Foam Plates
125 ct. **\$7⁹⁹**

SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER
(15 OZ.) 2 PCS. **\$3⁰⁰**

Horse Shampoo
1 qt. **\$3⁰⁰** EACH

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name
100 cts. **\$1⁵⁰**

Bottled White Candle (China)
12 pcs/case **\$13⁹⁹**

Huggies Big Pack (all size)
\$20⁹⁹

Luvs Big Pack (All Size)
\$20⁹⁹

Cottonelle double 24-48 rolls
\$16⁹⁹

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft.
\$7⁹⁹

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| BEEF SHANK | \$10.95 | BEEF BACK RIBS | \$7.95 |
| FLANK STEAK | \$16.95 | BEEF OXTAIL | \$16.95 |
| PORK ADOBO | \$10.95 | BEEF STEW | \$12.95 |
| PORK CHOP | \$11.95 | RIBEYE STEAK | \$17.95 |
| PORK BELLY | \$11.95 | BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK | \$14.95 |
| STEWING CHICKEN | \$6.95 | SMOKED HAM STEAK | \$12.95 |
| TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG) | \$4.99 | PORK BUTT | \$10.95 |
| U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS | \$14.99 | | |

Country Time Lemonade
2.33 Kg. **\$8⁹⁹**

Tang
22 qts. **\$7⁹⁹**

Lipton Ice Tea
4 oz. **\$6⁹⁹**

Kool Aid
5 lbs. **\$8⁹⁹**

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only
\$6⁹⁹

Excellent Bihon
99¢

Whole Chicken
Can 50 oz. **\$5⁹⁹**

Chamorro Punch 2L
\$6⁹⁹

Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular)
\$2¹⁹ /CASE **\$1³⁹** (2% Reduced Only)

Enfamil Premium Lipil 16x8oz. RTF
\$4¹⁹ /CASE

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only
\$13⁹⁹

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only)
\$12⁹⁹

Kool Aid Jammer 177ml.
\$2⁹⁹ /BOX

Pepsi 330ml Warm Only
\$13⁹⁹ /CASE All Flavors

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only
\$26⁹⁹ 3 DAYS ONLY DEC. 31 TO JAN. 2

NON-FOOD

| | |
|---|---------|
| CHARMIN (24 ROLLS) | \$8.99 |
| GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS) | \$19.95 |
| GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.) | \$16.95 |
| JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.) | \$7.99 |
| PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS) | \$3.99 |

Auto industry recalled 20 million vehicles in 2010

WASHINGTON (AP)—Automakers recalled about 20 million vehicles in 2010, led by high-profile recalls by Toyota that prompted new scrutiny of the auto industry's safety record.

The number of recalls this year was the largest in the United States since 2004, according to an analysis of federal data by The Associated Press. The auto industry set a record with 30.8 million recalled vehicles that year. Toyota Motor Corp. recalled about 7.1 million vehicles in 2010 to fix faulty gas pedals, floor mats that could trap accelerators, defective braking and stalling engines. The safety woes by the world's No. 1 automaker brought more attention to auto safety from government regulators and the public, which filed more than 64,000 complaints with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion, nearly double the number in a typical year.

Safety recalls can cost car companies tens of millions of dollars or more and have become more common since 2000, when Congress passed legislation to spot safety defects more quickly in the aftermath of the massive Firestone tire recalls. In 2010, lawmakers held several hearings on the Toyota recalls but sweeping legislation to increase penalties against car companies, require automakers to meet new safety standards and empower the government to demand a recall stalled in Congress.

Toyota was fined \$48.8 million by the government for its handling of three recalls dating back to 2004. Toyota has vowed to take a more proactive approach to safety, creating engineering teams that can quickly examine cars that are

the subject of consumer complaints while giving its U.S. offices a more direct role in safety related decisions.

Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons said the company has "committed to be more responsive to our customers and federal agencies" and its recalled vehicles are getting fixed at a faster rate than the industry average of 72 percent recall completion after 18 months.

Among other automakers, General Motors Co. recalled about 4 million vehicles in 2010 while Japanese rivals Honda and Nissan both recalled more than 2 million cars and trucks. Chrysler recalled about 1.5 million vehicles and Ford called back more than 500,000 vehicles. The recall data was preliminary and the government was expected to release final numbers next year.

"More and more recalls are being voluntarily initiated by automakers and we think that's a good sign," Transportation Department spokeswoman Olivia Alair said Wednesday. "Safety is NHTSA's first priority and improved cooperation

from automakers will help resolve safety issues more quickly and comprehensively."

Wade Newton, a spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents a dozen car companies, including GM, Toyota and

Ford, said automakers "are doing a better job of identifying and pinpointing safety-related issues and taking faster action." He said safety advances in new vehicles helped traffic deaths decline last year to its lowest levels since 1950.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Meat labels to include calories starting in 2012

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Agriculture Department will require many meat labels to include the number of calories and other nutritional information starting in 2012 so that consumers can make healthier decisions about what they eat. The rule announced Wednesday is part of the government's effort to educate Americans about nutrition and diets. It applies to 40 of the most popular cuts of meat and poultry products. Ground meat and poultry will have the facts on their labels. Raw cuts will offer the information on labels or to consumers where it's purchased. Labels will list grams of total fat and saturated fat, and fat percentages for products already offering lean percentages. Major cuts affected are boneless chicken breasts, brisket and tenderloin steak. The rule also affects hamburgers and ground turkey.

BP's spill costs look manageable 8 months later

NEW YORK (AP)—As the Gulf oil spill gushed out of control, BP's financial liabilities seemed big enough to sink the company. No more. Cleanup, government fines, lawsuits, legal fees and damage claims will likely exceed the \$40 billion that BP has publicly estimated, according to an Associated Press analysis. But they'll be far below the highest estimates made over the summer by legal experts and promi-

nent Wall Street banks, such as Goldman Sachs, which said costs could near \$200 billion. BP will survive the worst oil spill in U.S. history for several key reasons: it has little debt; its global businesses are forecast to generate \$26 billion next year in cash flow from operations; the environmental impact of the spill isn't as bad as feared; and the government seems unlikely to ban BP from Gulf drilling. To bolster its finances, BP has cut its dividend, issued debt and sold more than \$21 billion in assets.

Foreclosures rise in Q3 as fewer people get help

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of foreclosed homes rose over the summer after fewer people at risk received assistance lowering their monthly mortgage payments, a new report shows. About 470,000 homeowners received help either directly from banks or through government programs in the July-September quarter, according to a report released Wednesday by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and Office of Thrift Supervision. That's a 17 percent drop from the previous quarter and a decline of 32 percent from the same period last year. At the same time, the number of completed foreclosures rose to nearly 245,000 in the third quarter, an 11.2 percent increase from the previous three months, the report said. The report only covers the 64 percent of mortgages that are held by national banks and thrifts.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Restroom Renovations and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011**, to the office of the Executive Director at he Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **three hundred sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: December 14, 2010



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 14, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - **msablan@cucgov.net** with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email **charles_warren@cucgov.net** and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - **mika_muna@cucgov.net**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Nation

Gulf oil spill voted as the top news story of 2010

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill, triggered by a deadly blast at a rig used by BP, was the top news story of 2010, followed by the divisive health care overhaul, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The oil spill received 54 first-place votes out of 180 ballots cast for the top 10 stories. The health care bill was next, with 30 first-place votes. The U.S. election was third.

In fourth place was the U.S. economy, which had been voted the top story of 2009.

Here are 2010's top 10 stories, in order:

■ GULF OIL DISASTER

The April 20 explosion at a BP-leased rig killed 11 workers and unleashed a deep-sea spill that ultimately spewed at least 170 million gallons of crude into the Gulf. Consequences included devastation for fishing and tourism industries, a huge and costly cleanup effort, a management change at BP, and creation of a \$20 billion fund to pay for damages.

■ HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

After bitter political wrangling, President Barack Obama was able to sign into law one of his major campaign promises—a \$1 trillion health care overhaul intended to expand coverage to more Americans. But Republicans used public misgivings about parts of the plan as a springboard for election gains, and the overhaul faced a welter of lawsuits challenging its constitutionality.

■ US ELECTIONS

President Obama called it a “shellacking”—an election in which the Republicans surged to a majority in the House of Representatives, and gained more governor's offices and legislative majorities. The Democrats were able to hang on to their edge in the Senate, leaving the U.S. with at least two years of divided government.

■ US ECONOMY

Economists said the deepest recession since the Great Depression was over, and consumers began to spend more as the year neared a close. But the unemployment rate stayed well above 9 percent, and home prices were weighed down by foreclosures and sluggish demand.

■ HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Already the Western Hemisphere's most destitute nation, Haiti was shattered by an earthquake on Jan. 12 that killed at least 230,000 and left millions homeless. Crucial reconstruction projects were slow to get started; disease and political instability added to the woes.

■ TEA PARTY MOVEMENT

Though it lacked the trappings of traditional political organizations, the ultraconservative tea party movement had a profound impact on the 2010 election, influencing the stances of Republican leaders and enabling some maverick challengers to oust Republican establishment candidates in the primaries.

■ CHILE MINE RESCUE

In a year of disasters and squabbles, this was a miraculous feel-good story. Trapped nearly a half-mile (800 meters) underground for 69 days after an Aug. 5 mine collapse, 33 Chilean miners were freed one-by-one



AP PHOTO/GERALD HERBERT, FILE

This April 21, 2010 file photo shows the Deepwater Horizon oil rig burning after an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico, off the southeast tip of Louisiana. The world's thirst for crude is leading explorers into ever deeper waters and ventures fraught with environmental and political peril, heralding an end to an easier era when companies could merely drill on land and wait for the oil—and the profits—to flow. From the Arctic to Cuba to the coast of Nigeria, the brave new world of oil drilling means that avoiding catastrophes like BP's Gulf spill is likely to become increasingly difficult and require global solutions and cooperation between countries that aren't used to working together.

while an entranced global audience watched on television.

■ IRAQ

U.S. forces formally ended their combat role and looked ahead

to planned withdrawal, while Iraqis endured months of bitter political haggling after an election that failed to heal Sunni-Shiite divisions.

■ WIKILEAKS

First came the online postings of a huge batch of U.S. military documents from Iraq and Afghanistan, then WikiLeaks

started releasing a cache of classified State Department diplomatic cables, creating embarrassment for Washington in its dealings with other nations.

■ AFGHANISTAN

After months of deliberation, President Obama ordered a troop surge in a major bid to turn the tide of the nearly 10-year-old war. Intense fighting pushed the Taliban out of some longtime strongholds, but the militants remained resilient, and Afghanistan remained beset by corruption and ineffectual government.

■ ■ ■

It was a year of dramatic and diverse news events. Among the stories which didn't make the top 10 were Arizona's enactment of a tough law against illegal immigration, the European fiscal crisis, a Supreme Court ruling freeing corporations and unions to fund election ads targeting candidates, floods in Pakistan that affected 20 million people, and the volcanic eruption in Iceland that caused trans-Atlantic air travel chaos.

"We wish we could have voted for a top 15 or 20, there were so many compelling stories this year," wrote news editor Larry Lockhart of the Casa Grande Dispatch in Arizona.

Jessica Runnels Rourk, an editor at The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina, said the health care overhaul was a catalyst for other major political events.

"Conservative anger over the law gave rise to the tea party movement, and the law itself became a symbol of the lack of bipartisanship in Congress that cost incumbents from both parties in November's elections," she noted on her ballot.

'I'm not a witch' picked as top quote of year

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP)—Christine O'Donnell's TV ad declaration "I'm not a witch" during her U.S. Senate campaign and BP CEO Tony Hayward's lament "I'd like my life back" after the Gulf oil spill tied for first place among the year's best quotes, according to a Yale University librarian.

O'Donnell's quote is cited by Fred Shapiro, associate librarian at Yale Law School, who released his fifth annual list of the most notable quotations of the year. In the ad, O'Donnell was responding to reports of her revelations that she had dabbled in witchcraft years ago.

"It was such a remarkable unconventional quote to be a part of the political discourse," Shapiro said.

The quote by O'Donnell, the Republican Senate candidate in

Delaware who was backed by the ultraconservative tea party movement, tied for first place with former BP CEO Hayward's "I'd like my life back," the lament made in May after the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

"People resented the fact that he was wanting to get back to his yacht races and other aspects of his normal life when those little problems were dwarfed by the magnitude of what people on the Gulf Coast were dealing with," Shapiro said.

Another Briton made the list: then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who was embarrassed by comments he made about a voter he met while campaigning for British general election.

"They should never have put me with that woman. ... She was just a sort of bigoted woman who said she used to be Labour," Brown said.

Shapiro noted that the top

quotes stemmed from two of the biggest news stories of the year, the oil spill and the emergence of the tea party movement.

The original Yale Book of Quotations was published in 2006. Since then, Shapiro has released an annual list of the top 10 quotes. He said they will be incorporated into the next edition of the book.

Shapiro picks quotes that are famous, important or revealing of the spirit of the times. The quotes aren't necessarily the most eloquent or admirable.

O'Donnell, who lost the Senate race to Democrat Chris Coons, also made the list for questioning, during a debate in October, whether the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing basic freedoms includes the language "separation of church and state."

She was not the only tea party candidate on the list. Sharron Angle, who lost the Senate race

in Nevada to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, also made the list.

"I hope that's not where we're going, but you know, if this Congress keeps going the way it is, people are really looking toward those Second Amendment remedies. They're saying: My goodness, what can we do to turn this country around?" Angle said in January. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms.

Republican Sarah Palin's tweet: "Don't retreat. Instead—reload!" also made the list.

"The quotes become perhaps stronger, harsher, more unconventional every year," Shapiro said.

On the Democratic side, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made the list when she spoke in March to the National Association of Counties. "We have to pass the (health care) bill so you can find out what is in it," Pelosi said.

Here's the list:

1. (TIE) "I'm not a witch." Christine O'Donnell, television advertisement, Oct. 4.

1. (TIE) "I'd like my life back." BP CEO Tony Hayward, comment to reporters, May 30.

3. "If you touch my junk, I'm gonna have you arrested." airline passenger John Tyner, remark to Transportation Security Administration worker at San Diego airport, Nov. 13, 2010

4. "Don't retreat. Instead—reload!" Sarah Palin, Tweet, March 23.

5. "Chi! Chi! Chi! Le! Le! Le! Los mineros de Chile!" Chant at Chilean mine rescue, Oct. 13.

6. "I hope that's not where we're going, but you know, if this Congress keeps going the way it is, people are really looking toward those Second Amendment remedies. They're saying: My goodness, what can we do to turn this country around?" Sharron Angle, radio interview in January.

7. "We have to pass the

(health care) bill so you can find out what is in it." Nancy Pelosi, speech to National Association of Counties, March 9.

8. "I'm going to take my talents to South Beach." basketball star LeBron James, announcing his decision to sign with the Miami Heat in a television broadcast, July 8.

9. "You're telling me that the separation of church and state is found in the First Amendment?" Christine O'Donnell, Delaware senatorial debate, Oct. 19. (The Associated Press reported the quote: "So you're telling me that the separation of church and state, the phrase 'separation of church and state,' is in the First Amendment?")

10. "They should never have put me with that woman. ... She was just a sort of bigoted woman who said she used to be Labour." Prime Minister Gordon Brown, comments about a voter he met while campaigning for British general election, Apr. 28.

World

2010's world gone wild: Quakes, floods, blizzards

By JULIE REED BELL
and SETH BORENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

This was the year the Earth struck back.

Earthquakes, heat waves, floods, volcanoes, super typhoons, blizzards, landslides and droughts killed at least a quarter million people in 2010; the deadliest year in more than a generation. More people were killed worldwide by natural disasters this year than have been killed in terrorists in the past 40 years combined.

"It just seemed like it was back-to-back, and it came in waves," said Craig Fugate, who heads the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. It handled a record number of disasters in 2010.

"The term '100-year event' really lost its meaning this year."

And we have ourselves to blame most of the time, scientists and disaster experts say.

Even though many catastrophes have the ring of random chance, the hand of man made this a particularly deadly, costly, extreme and weird year for everything from wild weather to earthquakes.

Poor construction and development practices conspire to make earthquakes more deadly than they need be. More people live in poverty in vulnerable buildings in crowded cities. That means that when the ground shakes, the river breaches, or the tropical cyclone hits, more people die.

Disasters from the Earth, such as earthquakes and volcanoes, "are pretty much constant," said Andreas Schraft, vice president of catastrophic perils for the Geneva-based insurance giant Swiss Re. "All the change that's made is man-made."

The January earthquake that killed well more than 220,000 people in Haiti is a perfect example. Port-au-Prince has nearly three times as many people, many of them living in poverty, and more poorly built shanties than it did 25 years ago. So had the same quake hit in 1985 instead of 2010, total deaths probably would have been in the 80,000 range, said Richard Olson, director of disaster risk reduction at Florida International University.

In February, an earthquake that was more than 500 times stronger than the one that struck Haiti hit an area of Chile that was less populated, better constructed, and not so poor. Chile's bigger quake caused fewer than 1,000 deaths.

Climate scientists say Earth's climate also is changing thanks to man-made global warming, bringing extreme weather, such as heat waves and flooding.

In the summer, one weather system caused oppressive heat in Russia, while farther south it



In this April 16, 2010 file photo, the volcano in southern Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull glacier sends ash into the air just prior to sunset. This was the year the Earth struck back. More people were killed worldwide by natural disasters in 2010 than have been killed in terrorist attacks in the past 40 years combined. But it wasn't just nature's fault. Mankind had a hand in it, too.

caused flooding in Pakistan that inundated 62,000 square miles (160,580 sq. kilometers), about the size of Bangladesh. That single heat-and-storm system killed almost 17,000 people, more than all the worldwide airplane crashes in the past 15 years combined.

"It's a form of suicide, isn't it? We build houses that kill ourselves (in earthquakes). We build houses in flood zones that drown ourselves," said Roger Bilham, a professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado. "It's our fault for not anticipating these things. You know, this is the Earth doing its thing."

No one had to tell a mask-wearing Vera Savinova how bad

in Trenberth, chief of climate analysis for the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

That is why the people who study disasters for a living say it would be wrong to chalk 2010 up to just another bad year.

"The Earth strikes back in cahoots with bad human decision-making," said a weary Debarati Guha Sapi, director for the World Health Organization's Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. "It's almost as if the policies, the government policies and development policies, are helping the Earth strike back instead of protecting from it. We've created

cording to the World Health Organization. In the United States, 30 people died in floods in the Nashville, Tennessee, region. Inundated countries include China, Italy, India, Colombia and Chad. Super Typhoon Megi, with winds of more than 200 mph devastated the Philippines and parts of China.

Through Nov. 30, nearly 260,000 people died in natural disasters in 2010, compared with 15,000 in 2009, according to Swiss Re. The World Health Organization, which has not updated its figures past Sept. 30, is just shy of 250,000. By comparison, deaths from terrorism from 1968 to 2009 were less

through the end of October was 58.53 degrees (14.74 Celsius), a shade over the previous record of 2005, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

Los Angeles, California, had its hottest day in recorded history on Sept. 27: 113 degrees. In May, 129 degrees (54 Celsius) set a record for Pakistan and may have been the hottest temperature recorded in an inhabited location.

In the Southeastern United States, the year began with freezes in Florida that had cold-blooded iguanas becoming comatose and falling off trees. Then it became the hottest summer on record for the region. As the year ended, unusually cold weather was back in force.

Northern Australia had the wettest May-October on record, while the southwestern part of that country had its driest spell on record. And parts of the Amazon River basin struck by drought hit their lowest water levels in recorded history.

HOW COSTLY

Disasters caused \$222 billion in economic losses in 2010, more than Hong Kong's economy, according to Swiss Re. That is more than usual, but not a record, Schraft said. That is because this year's disasters often struck poor areas without heavy insurance, such as Haiti.

Ghulam Ali's three-bedroom, one-story house in northwestern Pakistan collapsed during the floods. To rebuild, he had to borrow 50,000 rupees (\$583) from friends and family. It is what many Pakistanis earn in half a year.

HOW WEIRD

A volcano in Iceland paralyzed air traffic for days in Europe, disrupting travel for more than 7 million people. Other volcanoes in the Congo, Guatemala, Ecuador, the Philippines and Indonesia sent people scurrying for safety. New York City had a rare tornado.

A nearly 2-pound (0.9-kilogram) hailstone that was 8 inches (20.3 centimeters) in diameter fell in South Dakota in July to set a U.S. record. The storm that produced it was one of seven declared disasters for that state this year.

There was not much snow to start the Winter Olympics in a relatively balmy Vancouver, British Columbia, while the U.S. East Coast was snowbound.

In a 24-hour period in October, Indonesia got the trifecta of terra terror: a deadly magnitude 7.7 earthquake, a tsunami that killed more than 500 people and a volcano that caused more than 390,000 people to flee. That is after flooding, landslides and more quakes killed hundreds earlier in the year.

Even the extremes were ex-

treme. This year started with a good sized El Nino, a recurring Pacific Ocean weather oscillation, which causes all sorts of extremes worldwide. Then later in the year, the world got the mirror image Pacific weather system with a strong La Nina, which causes a different set of extremes. Having a year with both a strong El Nino and La Nina is unusual.

And in the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared a record number of major disasters, 79 as of Dec. 14. The average year has 34.

A list of day-by-day disasters in 2010 compiled by The Associated Press runs 64 printed pages long.

"The extremes are changed in an extreme fashion," said Greg Holland, director of the earth system laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

For example, even though it sounds counterintuitive, global warming likely played a bit of a role in U.S. "Snowmageddon" early this year, Holland said. That is because with a warmer climate, there is more moisture in the air, which makes storms including blizzards, more intense, he said.

White House science adviser John Holdren said people should become acclimated used to climate disasters or do something about global warming: "The science is clear that we can expect more and more of these kinds of damaging events unless and until society's emissions of heat-trapping gases and particles are sharply reduced."

And that is just the "natural disasters." It was also a year of man-made technological catastrophes. BP's broken oil well caused 172 million gallons to gush into the Gulf of Mexico. Mining disasters, men trapped deep in the Earth, caused dozens of deaths in tragic collapses in West Virginia, China and New Zealand. The fortunate miners in Chile who survived 69 days underground provided the feel good story of the year.

In both technological and natural disasters, there runs a common theme of "pushing the envelope," Olson said.

Colorado's Bilham said the world's population is moving into riskier megacities on fault zones and flood-prone areas. He figures that 400 million to 500 million people in the world live in large cities prone to major earthquakes.

A Haitian disaster will happen again, Bilham said: "It could be Algiers. It could be Tehran. It could be any one of a dozen cities."

Borenstein reported from Washington. Reed Bell reported from Charlotte, North Carolina.

ON THE NET

- World Health Organization's Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters: <http://www.cred.be/>
- World Meteorological Organization: www.wmo.int
- Swiss Re report on 2010 natural catastrophes: http://media.swissre.com/documents/media_information_cata_30_11_2010.pdf
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency disasters: http://www.fema.gov/news/disaster_totals_annual.fema

it could get. She is a 52-year-old administrator in a dental clinic who in August took refuge from Moscow's record heat, smog and wildfires.

"I think it is the end of the world," she said. "Our planet warns us against what would happen if we don't care about nature."

The excessive amount of extreme weather that dominated 2010 is a classic sign of man-made global warming that climate scientists have long warned about. They calculate that the killer Russian heat wave, which set a national record of 111 degrees (44 Celsius), would happen once every 100,000 years without global warming.

Preliminary data show that 18 countries broke their records for the hottest day on record.

"These (weather) events would not have happened without global warming," said Kev-

conditions where the slightest thing the Earth does is really going to have a disproportionate impact."

Here is a quick tour of an anything but normal 2010:

HOW DEADLY

While the Haitian earthquake, Russian heat wave, and Pakistani flooding were the biggest killers, deadly quakes also struck Chile, Turkey, China and Indonesia in one of the most active seismic years in decades. Through mid-December there have been 20 earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or higher, compared with the normal 16. This year is tied for the most big quakes since 1970, but it is not a record. Nor is it a significantly above average year for the number of strong earthquakes, U.S. earthquake officials say.

Flooding alone this year killed more than 6,300 people in 59 nations through September, ac-

than 115,000, according to reports by the U.S. State Department and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The last year in which natural disasters were this deadly was 1983 because of an Ethiopian drought and famine, according to WHO. Swiss Re calls it the deadliest since 1976.

The charity Oxfam says 21,000 of this year's disaster deaths are weather related.

HOW EXTREME

After strong early year blizzards, nicknamed Snowmageddon, paralyzed the U.S. mid-Atlantic and record snowfalls hit Russia and China, the temperature turned to broil.

The year may go down as the hottest on record worldwide or at the very least in the top three, according to the World Meteorological Organization. The average global temperature

Life & Style

NBC's late-night fiasco tops 2010's stories

NEW YORK (AP)—What began as a grand, highly promoted experiment in late-night, ended in a fiasco that made NBC a laughing stock and captivated the country.

In January 2010, NBC sought to displace its newly crowned "Tonight Show" host, Conan O'Brien, by restoring Jay Leno to 11:35 p.m. O'Brien, however, didn't go for the 30 minute shift, and the fallout made for one of the most public debacles in network history.

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Alliances were drawn, with many supporting "Team CoCo." In the end, O'Brien left with an enormous settlement, rediscovered himself in a cross-country concert-hall road trip, and finally ended up with a new show at TBS. Leno retook the "Tonight Show."

The dramatic upheaval of late-night at NBC was chosen as 2010's entertainment story of the year, as voted on by Associated Press members.

There were 102 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. The voters were asked to rank the top 10 entertainment stories of the year, with the first-place story getting 10 points, the second-place story receiving nine points, and so on.

The late-night saga received 797 points, almost twice as much as any other story.

Here are 2010's top entertainment stories:

1 NBC LATE-NIGHT ERUPTS

NBC Universal chief Jeff Zucker presented NBC's reshuffle plan in the first week of 2010, claiming something had to be done about the ratings for both "The Jay Leno Show" and O'Brien's "Tonight Show." The fallout lasted weeks before O'Brien left with millions in tow and a galvanized fan base. Equally surprising was his final destination—TBS, where his show "Conan" premiered in November.

2 "AVATAR" MAKES HISTORY

For a substantial part of 2010, James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar" was playing to packed movie theaters. It smashed the record set by Cameron's "Titanic" and, by early February, became the highest grossing film of all time, domestically and globally. It took in nearly \$750 million domestically, a number further padded by the later release of an extended cut.

3 TABLETS UNLEASH APPS

Before Apple CEO Steve Jobs debuted the iPad in May, there was plenty



In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington, are shown in a scene from, "Avatar."

of skepticism about the potential of tablet computers. But as people began to familiarize themselves with the device, it became clear that it had further unlocked an app universe of games, entertainment and media. Other tablets have since been released, and media companies have increasingly developed apps.

4 INTERNET AND TV MOVE CLOSER

Netflix transformation from a DVD company to a streaming video company came at the same time that devices such as Google TV were pushing the

Internet and television closer. By the end of the year, fears were growing that cable customers were beginning to cut the cord and depend on Web access for TV shows.

5 COWELL LEAVES "IDOL"

Simon Cowell made his exit from "American Idol" official in January. He left to focus on his British TV hit "The X Factor," of which an American version is in the works.

6 BEATLES COME TO iTunes

The most famous of the few remaining holdouts from iTunes, the

Beatles, finally caved, signifying the end of a chapter in the digitizing of music. More than 2 million individual songs and 450,000 copies of Beatles albums were sold in the first week.

7 PRINCE WILLIAM GETS ENGAGED

After years of dating, Prince William proposed to his girlfriend Kate Middleton with his mother's diamond-and-sapphire engagement ring. They'll be wed at Westminster Abbey this spring.

8 BULLOCK WINS OSCAR, DIVORCES

Sandra Bullock had a remarkably eventful year, winning a best-actress Oscar, adopting a baby boy and divorcing her husband Jesse James after it was revealed that he cheated on her.

9 "LOST" ENDS

More than 13 million watched the ABC desert island mystery conclude after six seasons of twisted plot lines, alternate realities and stupefying cliffhangers.

10 LARRY KING QUILTS

Larry King hung up his suspenders, calling it quits after 25 years of "Larry King Live" on CNN. The 77-year-old talk-show host made his last broadcast of the show in December. British talk-show host and "America's Got Talent" judge Piers Morgan takes over the time slot in January.

Kanye, Tiger, the Gosselins—our unfortunate 2010

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**

AP MUSIC WRITER

2010 YEAR END REPORT

NEW YORK (AP)—If only there were more Kanye Wests in the world.

No wait—lemme finish!! Yes, West proved he was a complete jerk when he jumped onstage and interrupted Taylor Swift's glory moment at the MTV Video Music Awards. It was a moment audiences live to see.

But what if the rapper could have interrupted those other moments we didn't want to see? Then we wouldn't be nursing scarred brains caused by 2009's worst moments, such as: a smiling Joe Jackson hawking his record label for cameras a few days after his son Michael's death; octo-dad Jon Gosselin's creepy transformation from henpecked husband to sleazy bachelor; any of Chris Brown's halfhearted apologies; Tiger Woods' transgressions of the heart.

A sampling of more Wacky & Tacky:

■ TIGER'S SWING



Did you ever think we'd be handicapping Tiger's mistresses instead of his golf game? Sports' ultimate boy scout became the tabloid gift that kept on giving when a bizarre car accident outside his home started a chain that

revealed he had more side dishes than an all-you-can-eat buffet. From porn stars to waitresses, the married father-of-two may showed that his conquests included more than the world of golf.

■ THIS IS WHY THEY INVENTED THE TERM "NO COMMENT"



Let's be honest—when you expect sage social and political commentary from a beauty contestant, you've got a problem (see Sarah Palin). But it's bizarre that Carrie Prejean's anti-gay marriage stance at a Miss USA pageant seemed to set off more fury than when the same sentiments were uttered by any of America's elected officials (including the president). Still, it's hard to feel sorry for Prejean, who latched on to the family values contingent, but then it was revealed that she had breast implants, nude photos and a solo sex tape. The only thing she wasn't accused of being was one of Tiger's mistresses. But give it time: The list is still growing.

■ MAYBE CHINA WAS RIGHT



Sure, a one-child policy might seem a little extreme, but after watching the questionable to downright scary parenting skills of "Octomom" Nadya Suleman and Jon and Kate Gosselin of "Jon & Kate Plus 8" fame, maybe the United States

needs to follow China's lead. All three used the celebrity of their multiple-birth children to stay in the limelight. But karma will soon catch up—in the form of multiple teenagers.

■ REALITY SHOW FAIL-BALLOON BOY



It's hard to blame Richard and Mayumi Heene—the parents in the infamous balloon boy hoax—for making up the ludicrous plot that their 6-year-old son was floating away in a balloon to garner attention from the press in hopes of getting a reality show. After all, if they watched "Real Housewives," "For the Love of Ray J," "The Hills" or just about any other reality show, there is so much fiction they probably thought their hoax was an appropriate audition. Instead it might get them jail time. But they're so entertaining, let's hope whatever prison they land in allows for cell cameras.

■ FATHER OF THE YEAR



Even Joe Jackson would shake his head at the shenanigans of this year's winner, Jon Gosselin. The father of eight declared he was standing up for himself by breaking free from his bullying wife Kate—and then proceeded to act so shamelessly we jumped on the Team Kate bandwagon. He was linked

to a young teacher BEFORE they announced their split, took up with a hard-partying twenty-something and then cheated on HER—with a tabloid reporter. He also made the most of his newfound bachelorhood by partying in Vegas (with college girls and his mom), all while trying to defend his honor as a good dad.

■ APOLOGY FAIL



When you've done something as heinous as attack your girlfriend, you'd better have your "I'm sorry" game on point. Singer Chris Brown was woefully off-message with his apologies for beating Rihanna—you could almost see the "let me tell you what REALLY happened" look in his eyes. Tweeting that he still loved the woman he attacked also didn't endear him to fans. Even Ike knew when to leave Tina alone.

■ "YES I'M ON THE LIST" REALLY DOES WORK

Tareq and Michelle Salahi shocked the society world—and the White House—when they managed to crash the first state dinner by President Obama, despite a guest list that required security clearance and Secret Service screening. All we can say is—big deal. White House security has nothing on entertainment's clipboard-carrying publicists. If they manage to crash a Diddy party, then that's worth talking about.

■ AT LEAST WE HAVE JERMAJESTY

We all mourned the loss this year of

one of the world's most gifted artists, Michael Jackson, and his loss resonates as well—the man provided us with a wealth of material every year. Jackson's death showed us that along with his music, the craziness will also live on. The Jackson family kept his body on ice for more than two months so they could have another memorial that cost more than \$1 million. Jermaine Jackson tried to mount a tribute show to his brother that fizzled, LaToya mugged for camera time, Jackson's dermatologist dished on his former patients and the remaining four of the five living Jackson brothers had a reality show by year's end. Can anyone say, "Off the Wall"?

■ CELEBRITY OF THE YEAR



In an age where celebrities detail their bikini waxes in interviews and debut their new implants at premieres, it was refreshing to see an ungroomed, portly woman from across the Atlantic become the year's biggest sensation. Susan Boyle proved to anyone worried that talentless opportunists were taking over our entertainment world that sometimes, talent does trump looks, substance can rise above style and a voice can win out over auto-tune. But even she wasn't immune to celebrity pitfalls—she had the prerequisite nervous breakdown at the height of her success. Welcome to the club, Susan! You are now official.

'Spartacus,' 'Treme' and 'Dead' among TV's 10 Best

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Television logged its share of ups and downs in 2010.

Way up there: Betty White.

Way down: The audience for "Parker Spitzer."

Down and out: "Law & Order," abruptly axed after 20 seasons.

Out and back:

Conan O'Brien, quitting NBC, then resurrected by TBS.

Programs sank pretty low ("Bridalplasty") and fell flat ("The Hasseloffs," canned after a single airing).

But this year, TV also had ascending moments. Here, in alphabetical order, are 10 top examples of when TV soared:

■ "Carlos" (Sundance Channel). For six gripping hours, viewers witnessed a legendary terrorist on an epic scale from up-close-and-personal proximity. Edgar Ramirez is haunting as Carlos the Jackal in this nation-hopping, multi-lingual bio-odyssey that spans a breathless quarter-century.

■ "God in America" (PBS). In this six-hour documentary, "Frontline" and "American Experience" joined forces to tell the story of America with religious faith as its narrative thread. Religious liberty was a founding principle that helped shape America's

identity, and this film, spanning 400 years, surveys the rough-and-tumble competition of the religious free market that resulted.

■ "The Good Wife" (CBS). In its second season, this courtroom-and-family drama has been even better and more surprising than before. It stars Julianna Margulies as a wife and mother forced to resume her long-ago career as an attorney

in the wake of betrayal when her politician hubby, played by Chris Noth, was jailed for corruption and infidelity. Now he's on the campaign trail. Meanwhile, her law firm is hurting for business and ready to deal. Enhanced by smart writing and a brilliant cast, nearly everyone on this show is likable, flawed and engagingly compromised.

■ "Luther" (BBC America). A topflight psychological crime thriller, this British miniseries pits a London police detective against a beautiful, crafty murderer—and, increasingly, it puts him in cahoots with her, too, as he uses the murderer to solve other crimes and salvage his job. Idris Elba ("The Wire") stars as the charismatic, tormented Luther.

■ "Mad Men" (AMC). This series' fourth season resumed in November 1964 with magnetic ad man Don Draper (series star Jon Hamm) divorced and struggling

at his startup agency. The season ended a year later as Draper found love—or so he thought—with his beautiful young secretary. For Draper, like many of the other "Mad Men" characters, it was an emotion-charged season, meticulously told. Maybe the series' best year yet.

■ "Spartacus: Blood and Sand" (Starz). With all the bloody violence, you felt the urge to take a shower. With all the hardbodies and hanky-panky, you wanted to take a cold shower. An orgiastic blend of hyper-realism and epic fantasy, with an outstanding cast including Lucy Lawless ("Xena: Warrior Princess"), this show is a wicked treat unlike anything else on TV.

■ Super Bowl Ad with Dave, Jay and Oprah (CBS). It was 15 seconds of ironic bliss. And such a surprise! Here were CBS late-night host David Letterman and his longtime NBC archrival Jay Leno, plus Oprah Winfrey—planted side by side on a couch for what, Dave grumbled, was the "worst Super Bowl party ever." Produced on the sly and aired just once, during last February's Super Bowl telecast, this promo for "Late Show With David Letterman" glowed with miniaturist cleverness.

■ "30 Rock" (NBC). By now, its fifth season, this wildly celebrated comedy should either be feeling its age or larded with self-satisfaction. Instead, it's as

zany, fresh and inspired as ever. Meanwhile, the pending takeover of NBC Universal by Comcast—while otherwise no favor to the average viewer—has been a comic boon for "30 Rock" fans. Its send-up of big business, with a conglomerate called Kabletown devouring GE Sheinhardt NBC Universal, has represented "30 Rock" at its wackiest.

■ "Treme" (HBO). Set in the months after Hurricane Katrina, this drama is a sometimes joyful, sometimes painful homage to New Orleans. There is plenty of evident rage over the preventable disaster that resulted from Katrina. But there's also music, soul and cultural zest propelling this saga of a city determined to get back on its feet, and dance.

■ "The Walking Dead" (AMC). A tattered band of survivors faced a zombie invasion in Atlanta (and who knows how far beyond) in a drama that proved macabre, suspenseful, poignant and horribly funny. Its all-too-fleeting six-episode first season left the audience as ravenous as zombies to feast on the monstrous twists surely lurking next year.

The year in retweets: Oil spill and Justin Bieber

NEW YORK (AP)—So many people love Justin Bieber. They love him so much, that this year Twitter changed the way it counts its most tweeted-about topics to effectively exclude him.

Still, the teenage heart-throb made it into not one but three of this year's 10 "most retweeted tweets." Tweet that?

No. 1 was no other than that lovable faux-conservative TV comedian Stephen Colbert with his June 16 tweet, "In honor of oil-soaked birds, 'tweets' are now 'gurgles.'"

Bieber himself was No. 4, with "Te quiero mucho mi amor" ("I love you so much, my love") on July 11. But two more tweets about him - from Joe Jonas and Rihanna - were No. 6 and No. 8.

Rounding out the top 10 was another guy named Justin, who

tweets about the stuff his dad says on a much-followed Twitter account that is now the subject of a TV show.

Twitter is just one prominent tech company offering up year-end insights this week. On Tuesday, Facebook released its 2010 "Memology" list, the terms that grew the most in status updates this year compared

with 2009. As with Twitter's trending topics, counting how much certain terms grew in use gives a more interesting picture of the year's trends than simply counting the most commonly used phrases, which may well be along the lines of "It's raining."

Justin Bieber figured prominently here, too, making it to No. 6 as the number of times he was mentioned in publicly viewable status updates soared along with his career. Haiti, the

rescued Chilean miners and the iPad and iPhone 4 were also in the top 10, but at No. 1 was something more personal: HMU. Short for "hit me up," slang for "get in touch with me," the shorthand was "this year's biggest surprise," Facebook data scientist Lars Backstrom said in a blog post.

"In early 2009, the acronym HMU was virtually unheard of. Only a few posts a day contained HMU, and half of them were probably typos," he wrote. By the end of the summer of 2010, however, this reached 80,000 mentions a day.

Google Inc., too, offered a look back on 2010 in its Zeitgeist report with the fastest-rising searches. Yep, you guessed it, Justin Bieber made out well here, too. He's the No. 3 fastest-rising search term behind the iPad at No. 2 and that now all but forgotten star Chatroulette at No. 1.

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DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Natividad Tudela Castro

"Daling"

September 03, 1935 – December 24, 2010 was called home by our Father at the age of 75

Mass of intention is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral Church daily at 6:00a.m.

In her new life, Natividad will be met at the gate of heaven by her:

Father: †Agustin Sablan Tudela
Mother: †Elena Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero Tudela
Brothers: †Gregorio DLG. Tudela
†Rafael DLG. Tudela
†Francisco DLG. Tudela

Brother-In-Law: †Jose Terlaje

Sister's-In-Law: †Regina C. Terlaje
†Carmen C. Tudela
Husband: †Manuel Terlaje Castro
Grandson: †Jesus Manuel Castro

Natividad's love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Brother: Jesus DLG. Tudela
Children, Grand Children, & Great Grand Children:

Felix T./Ludevina Castro (Dexter & Yuka Castro [Miria & Destin], Jennifer & Antonio Agulto [Alton Diego], Felixberto Castro, Lude Lynn Castro, Queenielyn Castro)

Augustin T./Nathania Castro (†Jesus Manuel Castro & Valerie Villagomez [Vijae Scott], Augustine Jr. Castro, Elsa Castro & Paul C. Pangelinan, Jean Castro, Doreen Castro & Brian Camacho [Jesus Vinx], Brandkief Castro, Byron Castro)

Juan T. Cruz (John Trevor Cruz, Alison P. Cruz, Benny John P. Cruz, Jaydoria P. Cruz, Julius P. Cruz)

Maria Elena C. "Helen" (Jesus H. Sablan [Joey C./Sarinee Sablan, Jay C. Sablan & Joselyn Cabrera [Jeslena Joemar], Christine C. Sablan & Roland Delos Reyes [Marlenie Mitsuko], Jesse C. Sablan)

On Monday, January 03, 2011 at 7:30 a.m., our beloved will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church in Chalan Kanoa.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:30a.m. followed immediately by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where we will bid her farewell and a peaceful rest.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You,

The Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late,

Pedro Tudela
"Pete/Dung"

Would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our families, relatives, and friends for your assistance, all the prayers, acts of kindness and generosity bestowed upon us during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness and thoughtfulness have deeply touched us all.

We would also like to extend a sincere Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase most especially to our techa Greg Sablan, Juan S. Tenorio "Santiago", Lou Mendiola & Children, Natibus Kitchen, CHC staff, Borja Funeral Home, Fr. Jesse & Fr. Rey, Alter Servers, and the San Vicente Choir.

You will always be remembered in our prayers. May our good Lord bless you and reward each and everyone of you.

God Bless Us All!

From: Elvie Tudela, Children & Family

AP music writer picks best singles of the year

AP music writer chooses 10 best albums of the year

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

1. Janelle Monae, "ArchAndroid": Monae's "ArchAndroid" was a pure dreamland that wove in Walt Disney influences, Fela and James Brown-inspired beats, Outkast-style rhymes and Beatle-esque melodies for a heavenly, spectacular debut that envelops you completely in her fantasy world.

2. Kanye West, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy": It's typical for artists who feel persecuted in the press to spill out their anger, frustration and pity in song; thankfully, West's stunning fifth album doesn't go down that road. Instead, he brilliantly owns up to his dysfunction, acknowledging his flaws through (mostly) flawless tracks, gripping in their honesty and riveting in their musicality. Kanye can get away with being a jerk, as long as he makes music this amazing.

3. Eminem, "Recovery": There are elements of Slim Shady, but what makes "Recovery" so commanding is hearing Marshall Mathers confront his demons with brutal honesty—and, of course, warped wit—

on an album that restored his much-deserved reputation as one of rap's all-time greats.

4. Sia, "We Are Born": When word came that Sia was going to put out a dance album, there was every reason to fear that the serious songbird was taking an ill-advised jump on the Lady Gaga bandwagon. But Sia charts her own path with "We Are Born," an album filled with infectious grooves, and it keeps you engaged even when the tempo slows.

5. R. Kelly, "Love Letter": No midgets, no booty calls, no sex in the kitchen. R. Kelly trades perversion for perfection on the old-school throwback "Love Letter"—classy and classic.

6. Taylor Swift, "Speak Now": Swift gets a lot of attention for her read-between-the-lines tomes, but after the guessing game stops (is this one about John Mayer? Is that one about Taylor Lautner?), what remains are terrific, compelling songs with rich plot lines that will stay with you long after the gossip fades.

7. Sade, "Soldier of Love": Sade's music is so reliable in its greatness that sometimes people—say, Grammy voters—for-

get how much work it takes to be so good. Always alluring, always enchanting, always sensuous, Sade—with her first album in 10 years—returns with an exquisite collection of entrancing songs.

8. Corinne Bailey Rae, "The Sea": Rae channeled her grief over the untimely death of her husband into "The Sea," but what developed is an album that's wistful and peppered with optimism in the face of despair.

9. Ray LaMontagne and the Pariah Dogs, "God Willin' & The Creek Don't Rise": Ray LaMontagne has been known for his masterful songwriting for some time, but on "God Willin' & The Creek Don't Rise"—a sometimes morose, heartbreaking collection of despairing tracks—his lyrical gifts are perhaps at its best, especially on the track with which any New Yorker can identify: "New York City's Killing Me."

10. Gorillaz, "Plastic Beach": The cartoon gimmick may have lost its edge, but the Gorillaz haven't: "Plastic Beach" blends hip-hop, funk, rock and electronica for spacey party grooves.

Honorable mentions: Vampire Weekend, "Contra"; Lizz Wright, "Fellowship"; Drake, "Thank Me Later"; Florence & The Machine, "Lungs."

For 2010, 'Red Dead Redemption' wins the gold star

By **LOU KESTEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four years ago, Nintendo turned the video-game world upside-down with its motion-controlled Wii console. The big headline from 2010 is that Nintendo's primary competitors have finally followed suit: Microsoft with Kinect, Sony with the PlayStation Move. At first glance, it looks like a bad year for gamers who'd rather sit than flail about like dervishes.

But the game industry is driven by software, not hardware, and the best games of 2010 are those you could play the old-fashioned way—working a controller from the comfort of your favorite chair. The Kinect and Move technology is impressive, but (with one exception) the games available for them don't reach the creative heights of the year's best.

1. "Red Dead Redemption" (Rockstar, for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3): It's more than "Grand Theft Auto" on a horse, and it's all because of John Marston, the repentant former bandit at the heart of this Wild West drama. He's the first Rockstar protagonist with a heart, and his journey toward redemption is the most rewarding trip I took all year.

2. "Mass Effect 2" (Electronic Arts, for the Xbox 360): Engaging characters and an absorbing mystery help BioWare expand its sprawling intergalactic empire. It's as ambitious and thought-provoking as the best

science fiction.

3. "Rock Band 3" (MTV Games, for the Xbox 360, PS3, Wii): New keyboard and "pro guitar" accessories bring fans of this exemplary franchise closer to the stage than ever.

4. "Dragon Quest IX: Sentinels of the Starry Skies" (Square Enix, for the Nintendo DS): This delightful role-playing game is a satisfying throwback to classic sword-and-sorcery.

5. "Enslaved: Odyssey to the West" (Namco Bandai, for the Xbox 360, PS3): This vision of a post-apocalyptic America, featuring two of the year's more intriguing characters, deserves a wider audience than it has received.

6. "Nier" (Square Enix, for the Xbox 360, PS3): A man battles to save his daughter in this fascinating mashup of "Zelda," "Zork" and a half-dozen other classics.

7. "Dance Central" (MTV Games, for the Xbox 360): The best of the Kinect launch titles, this full-body workout will help you release your inner Gaga.

8. "BioShock 2" (2K Games, for the Xbox 360, PS3): Communism rears its head in 2K's underwater dystopia, and while some of the wow factor is gone, tighter controls and a more coherent story make for a first-rate follow-up.

9. "Darksiders" (THQ, for the Xbox 360, PS3): Clever puzzles, vivid animation and an acerbic sense of humor lift this

adventure above your standard "Zelda" clone.

10. "Fallout: New Vegas" (Bethesda Softworks, for the Xbox 360, PS3): Despite some glitches and a meandering plot, this sequel delivers a solid 80-plus hours of post-nuclear kicks.

■ **Runners-up:** "Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood," "Super Mario Galaxy 2," "Professor Layton and the Unwound Future," "God of War III," "Battlefield: Bad Company 2," "NBA 2K11," "Picross 3D," "Donkey Kong Country Returns," "Call of Duty: Black Ops," "Gran Turismo 5."

■ **Best downloadable games:** "Limbo," "Costume Quest," "DeathSpank," "Chime."

■ **Best movie-inspired games:** "Toy Story 3," "Lego Harry Potter: Years 1-4."

■ **Best game-inspired movie:** "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World."

■ **That gum you like is going to come back in style:** "Twin Peaks"-inspired games ("Alan Wake," "Deadly Premonition," "Nelson Tethers, Puzzle Agent").

■ **Best new hardware:** Kinect and Move got a lot of attention late in the year, but neither made as big a splash as Apple's iPad, which is challenging Nintendo's long-held dominance of portable gaming.

■ **Best iPad/iPhone game:** "Chaos Rings."

■ **Best proof that PC gaming isn't dead:** "StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty," "Civilization V."

■ **Worst game:** "Kane & Lynch: Dog Days."

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

Looking for the perfect mix tape for 2010? Well, surely others will disagree, but these 10 songs got our votes for the year's most entertaining, and we're betting they'll keep your attention for some time to come:

1. "When a Woman Loves," R. Kelly: An absolutely stunning love song with a pitch-perfect vocal performance that will send chills down your spine—for the right reasons.

2. "(Expletive) You," Cee Lo: This phrase might not be so offensive if everyone delivered it as cheerily and soulfully as Cee Lo, in perhaps the year's wittiest track.

3. "Love the Way You Lie," Eminem featuring Rihanna: The song grabs you from the

start of Rihanna's piercing vocal, and Eminem's tormented raps may be one of the more honest portrayals of love gone horribly wrong.

4. "Runaway," Kanye West: Let's toast indeed, to West's continued warped brilliance with a song that sarcastically pays tribute to his well-

documented flaws.

5. "Tightrope," Janelle Monae featuring Big Boi: James Brown would be proud with this frenetic dance groove with killer horns and the coolest of raps from the ever-cool Big Boi.

6. "Soldier of Love" Sade: The opening drum salvo is captivating enough, but when Sade's alto croons, "I've lost the use of my heart, but I'm still alive," it's a haunting yet intoxicating delivery that seals the deal.

7. "The Best in Me," Marvin

Sapp: Sapp's gospel anthem celebrates God's ability to see past the imperfections mere mortals can't.

8. "Billionaire," Travie McCoy featuring Bruno Mars: This fantasy-filled song was the perfect anthem in a year where most of us were holding on to our wallets a little tighter. It was perhaps the best cameo from the smooth-voiced Bruno Mars.

9. "Teenage Dream," Katy Perry: It's frothy and poppy, but don't let that hide the fact that "Teenage Dream" is just a great song, period.

10. "Bed Intruder Song," Antoine Dodson & The Gregory Brothers: Don't play—you know "Hide Yo Kids, Hide Yo Wife" is ingrained in your brain, thanks to the Gregory Brothers ingenious mashup song that took Antoine Dodson from viral sensation to musical sensation. Run and tell that!

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Little Fockers

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller

Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon

Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd

Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron Legacy

Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges

Science, Fiction • Rated PG

Fighter

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale

Drama • Rated R



How Do You Know?

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson

Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes

Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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Teen's grieving sister claims school failed to stop bullying

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I just lost my 15-year-old sister to bullying and the school here is not doing anything about it. There have been a number of suicides due to this behavior. I want schools to realize they need to take action before someone else gets hurt.

Bullying isn't a harmless prank and it should be taken seriously. I have heard of a bullying law in some schools, but it needs to be in ALL schools. I should not have to bury my sister at such a young age.

Abby, can you please get a message out to schools and their students about bullying? Thank you.

GRIEF-STRICKEN SISTER IN MICHIGAN



Dear Abby

DEAR GRIEF-STRICKEN SISTER: Please accept my deepest sympathy not only for the untimely loss of your sister, but also the tragic circumstances surrounding her death. Although bullying is something that has gone on for generations, in recent years school boards have only begun to realize what a serious and pervasive problem it truly is and have instituted zero tolerance policies.

In many schools where student suicides have occurred, the administration has provided grief counseling and programs to sensitize students and faculty in order to prevent it from happening. If that isn't being done in your community, the parents should be very worried.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to a person who never stops talking? A friend does it, and I don't want to hurt her feelings. It has reached the point where I avoid her because her nonstop babbling irritates me. I have made clear to her I don't use my phone much and prefer e-mail, but it hasn't stopped her from calling anyway—sometimes late at night. I let the machine pick up, but my sleep is still interrupted and, once again, I am irritated.

Abby, this woman has a heart of gold. She is generous and sweet, but her incessant chatter diminishes any good feelings I have for her. Even when we're eating in a restaurant, she never stops to come up for air. How can I politely let her know her never-ending blather is getting on my nerves?

CAN'T GET A WORD IN, IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR CAN'T GET A WORD IN: Your friend is a compulsive talker. She may do it out of insecurity, or because the sound of silence makes her uncomfortable. She may do it because she thinks she's entertaining. But hogging the conversation is rude. And calling someone in the late evening, after being told that the person does not want calls after a certain hour, is also rude. Much as you might like to, I doubt anything you say politely will change her. So accept her, warts and all, or move on.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When a man meets a woman wearing a low-cut dress or blouse, is it rude to momentarily glance down (not stare) at her cleavage? Most men find this a natural, unavoidable impulse.

DOIN' WHAT COMES NATURALLY

DEAR DOIN': It may be a "natural, unavoidable impulse," but gentlemen have learned to control their impulses. And that's what I recommend you do—unless you want to offend the woman you're with or the woman you're meeting. I'm surprised you haven't heard the phrase, "My eyes are up HERE."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: From the bottom of my heart, I wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011. And please, if you will be driving tonight, don't drink; and if you're drinking tonight, don't drive. Stay safe, everyone!—Love, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Politics and pop culture. Remember when they used to be, well, separate? In recent years these two worlds have seemed to inch ever closer, or maybe to overlap, but in 2010, nobody traveled between them more successfully than Sarah Palin.

No longer Alaska governor (wow, that does seem a long time ago) but omnipresent on the political scene nonetheless, she also had a multi-format presence in our culture: as a TV commentator, a best-selling author, and of course, a reality show star. Heck, she even almost won "Dancing With the Stars"—oh wait, that was daughter Bristol.

No matter. In our annual look at pop culture moments, Sarah Palin, with some help from her family, gets star billing.

JANUARY:

The iPad tablet debuts, briefly raising the vexing philosophical question: Do we really need yet another gadget? Answer: Yup, apparently we do. Ending a dreadfully botched experiment, NBC removes Jay Leno from 10 p.m., restoring him to 11:35 and thus displacing CONAN O'BRIEN, who is, shall we say, a little annoyed. SARAH PALIN, no doubt annoying opponents who were hoping she'd eventually disappear, becomes a commentator at Fox News Channel. An actual career shift, or a canny step toward a 2012 run? She's not telling. Maybe by the end of the year ...

FEBRUARY:

The sly, sly BETTY WHITE scores big in a Snickers Super Bowl ad, beginning an incredible year for the 88-year-old actress that will include a Facebook-generated "Saturday Night Live" hosting gig. As Betty rises, TIGER speaks: "What I did was not acceptable," the fallen golf great says with economical understatement in a carefully stage-managed appearance that will be analyzed ad nauseam. PALIN watch: During a speech to tea party activists, the words "energy," "tax" and "lift American spirits" are seen scribbled on her hand. Later, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs will mock her with the words "hope" and "change" scribbled on his own palm. Somehow, we think Palin will not only recover but turn this into a catchy joke ...

MARCH:

We were right. On Leno's "Tonight Show," Palin flashes "Good evening and welcome to 'The Tonight Show'" on her palm. She also says she's going to play TINA FEY in an upcoming Vegas show (ba dum-dum.) But there's much more from Palin this month: Publishers announce she's working on her second book. Heavyweight TV producer Mark Burnett pitches her Alaska-themed reality show, which lands at TLC. There's room for politics, too: Palin lends a hand to former GOP running mate John McCain by appearing at his cam-

paign rally. And in a Facebook post, she makes waves by declaring: "Don't Retreat, Instead - RELOAD!"

APRIL:

A month of reprises. WOODS returns to golf at the Masters, his first competition in nearly five months. (He ends up tying for fourth.) And FEY, who made so much hay out of her 2008 "SNL" run as Palin—"I can see Russia from my house!"—reprises the role as guest host, introducing a mock "Sarah Palin Network" with shows like "Tea Party Wheel of Fortune," "Are You Smarter than a Half-Term Governor?" and "Hey Journalist, I Gotcha." The real Palin, who first introduced herself to the world as a hockey mom, makes one of her many endorsements, calling a Minnesota governor hopeful a "straight talking hockey dad."

MAY:

After a disappointing "American Idol" season, SIMON

relations between exes Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston. More on this later ...

JULY:

WONDER WOMAN gets a wardrobe change from DC Comics—no more star-spangled hot pants. Once an awkward-looking teen, Chelsea Clinton is a beautiful bride in Rhinebeck, New York—and Americans are clearly still obsessed with royal weddings. President Obama goes on "The View," revealing a huge gap in his pop culture knowledge when he can't say who Snooki and The Situation are. PALIN watch: The word "refudiate," her unintentional splicing of "refute" and "repudiate," enters the lexicon. Bristol and Levi promptly "refudiate" their breakup—the engagement, they announce, is back on.

AUGUST:

RIHANNA, who made headlines in 2009 when she was assaulted by then boyfriend

A year of iPads, Betty, 'Glee' and multiple Palins

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

COWELL exits the formidable but slumping franchise. Speaking of slumping franchises, the second "Sex and the City" movie, set largely in Abu Dhabi, debuts to some of the most scathing reviews in memory, not to mention accusations that it lampoons Muslims. PALIN watch: Bristol Palin, perhaps foreseeing she'll be a hit on the upcoming "Dancing With the Stars," signs with a speakers agency. Her mom tells a crowd: "If you thought pit bulls were tough, you don't want to mess with mama grizzlies." And the uber mama grizzly is the subject of a comedic monologue by none other than the president: He tells the White House Correspondents dinner that he's popular on Twitter and Facebook—"or as Sarah Palin calls it, the socialized media."

JUNE:

Winner, most ill-advised remark: BP's Tony Hayward, who apologizes this month for his "I'd like my life back" comment. Winner, most ill-advised media interview: Gen. Stanley McChrystal, fired after criticizing the Obama administration in Rolling Stone. Winners, most surprising marital split: Al and Tipper Gore, previous winners of most surprising liplock at a political convention, who announce their separation after 40 years of marriage. PALIN watch: Reports emerge of a thawing in

Chris Brown, collaborates with rapper Eminem in a chart-topping song, "Love the Way You Lie," that graphically depicts a physically abusive relationship. The debate: Is the song a tool to fight domestic violence, or does it glorify it? And remember the party-crashing Salahis? Well, they're baaaack ... this time as reality stars, in "The Real Housewives of D.C." The pop culture hero of the month, though, is STEVEN SLATER, the JetBlue flight attendant who, having had quite enough, leaves his job—and career—via the plane's emergency chute, beer in hand. PALIN watch: NEVER MIND! Bristol Palin refudiates, er, breaks off her engagement to Johnston, after he tells her he may have fathered a child with another woman.

SEPTEMBER:

You're LADY GAGA and you want to make a sartorial statement at the VMA awards. Tough proposition, since you look pretty unique all the time. What are you gonna do, dress up in raw meat or something? (Yup.) The movie "SOCIAL NETWORK" debuts, becoming an instant Oscar front-runner and beginning Facebook co-founder MARK ZUCKERBERG's year of pop culture fame. PALIN watch: Apparently they wanted Todd Palin first, but it's Bristol who makes her debut on "Dancing With the Stars." Mama ap-

parently didn't tell her not to come—so she dances a cha-cha, to Three Dog Night's "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)." Satirist BILL MAHER gets a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and thanks "George Bush, Sarah Palin and the pope."

OCTOBER:

So many of us love the fun, creative Fox hit "GLEE." But those ultra-sexed-up photos a couple of cast members pose for in Esquire this month? Not so much, especially Lea Michele's spread-eagled number in panties—in a high school locker room. And we've seen strange political ads before, but maybe not THIS strange: "I'm not a witch," says Delaware Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell. "I'm you." In November, voters would decide not to elect ... themselves. PALIN watch: A Washington think tank finds that Obama was the most joked-about political figure this year. Coming in second? A certain former Alaska governor.

NOVEMBER:

There will be a real royal wedding! Britain's Prince William proposes to Kate Middleton, promising an April 29 extravaganza. But otherwise, on our pop culture clock, it's a Palin month. "Sarah Palin's Alaska" premieres on TLC, and her second book, "America by Heart: Reflections on Family, Faith and Flag," hits stores. A reality show, a best-selling book, and a bunch of her "mamma grizzlies" headed for office after the midterm elections ... what more can you ask? Well, Bristol Palin makes the finals on "Dancing," setting off a furious debate over whether the voting is just all politics. Winning, she says before the finale, "would be like a big middle finger" to the Palin haters; she ends up coming in third. FEY accepts her Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, and she, too, thanks ... you betcha!

DECEMBER:

Sorry, JULIAN ASSANGE: Facebook may be nearly 7 years old, but ZUCKERBERG, its 26-year-old CEO, is Time Magazine's Person of the Year, the youngest since Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Assange, the WikiLeaks founder and a top contender for the honor, sure is ticked off—oh wait, that's the faux Assange, in a popular SNL skit skewering both of them. OPRAH WINFREY launches the final season of her talk show with a typically understated gesture—bringing her entire audience on an eight-day trip to Australia. SNOOKI and her "Jersey Shore" mates—are you listening, Mr. President?—snag a spot on Barbara Walters' annual list of most fascinating people.

Who else is on the list? Sarah Palin, the only person to be on it three times in a row. And at year's end, though she's dropping more and more hints of a 2012 presidential run, she's still not telling.

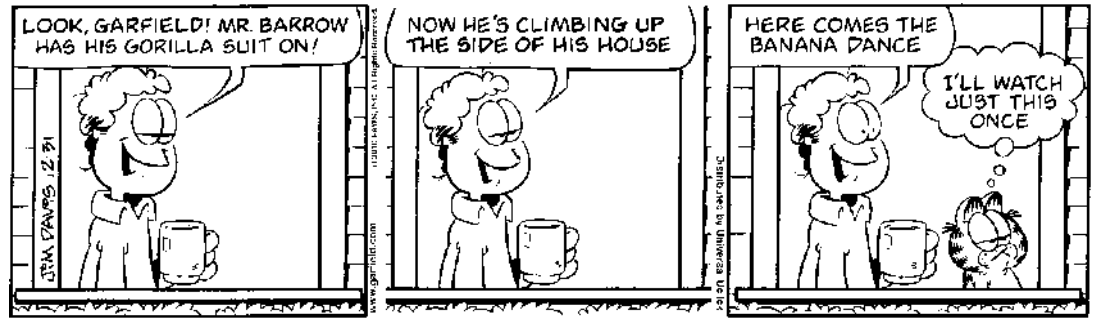
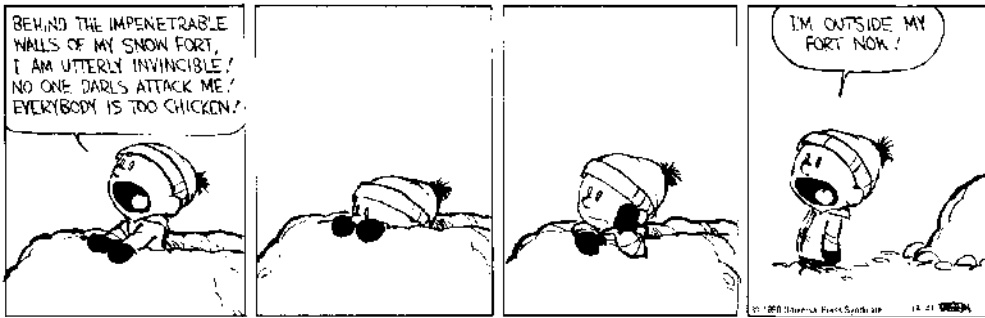
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

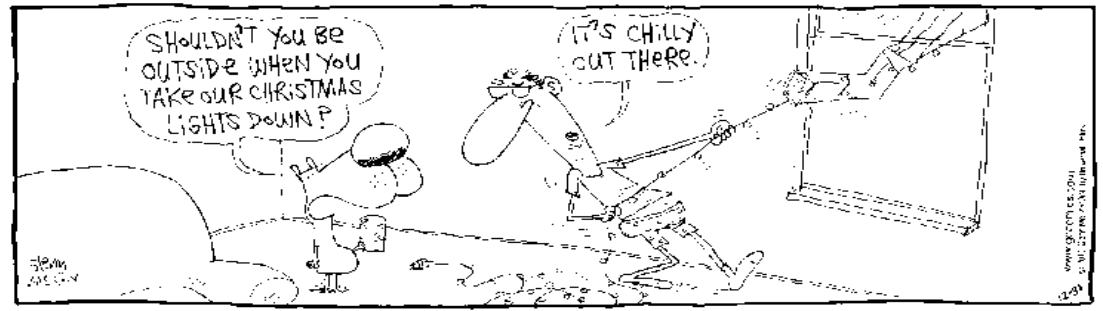


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Singer's recording

6 Taxi

9 Morning moisture

12 Accustom

13 Spoon-bender

14 Drop the ball

15 Choral composition

16 Fugitive

18 Guru's hangout

20 Appointment

21 Solemn promise

23 Corn spike

24 One of 12 in a box

25 Cover in paper

27 Kathmandu's land

29 Fashioned

31 Sly

35 So far

37 Thick chunk

38 Perch

DOWN

41 High-arc shot

43 Cent. parts

44 Mosque VIP

45 Canal zone

47 Escape

49 Acknowledged applause

52 "Yecchi"

53 Possess

54 Maternally related

55 — de deux

56 Inscapable

57 Faithful

3 Having a split

4 Belligerent deity

5 River of forgetfulness

6 Arrow poison

7 Calla lily

8 Crib

9 Big name in Scotch whiskey

10 Poets' Muse

11 More ironic

17 Grown-ups

19 Jackson or Johnson

21 Beatles, e.g.

22 Scrap

24 Discord

26 Kind of TV

28 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author

30 Superlative ending

32 Untrainable, as hair

33 Eg. plus Syr. once

34 Groups of ozs.

36 Comic Booster

38 Construct

39 Last letter

40 X-rated utterances

42 Tower of confusion

45 One of Karpov's soldiers

46 Part of MSG

48 Court

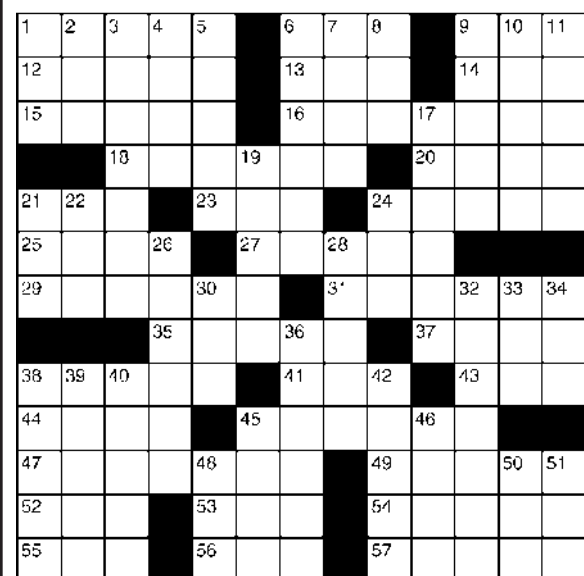
50 Schedule abbr.

51 N.J. neighbor

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 12-31



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-228-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey McIntyre, 38; Val Kilmer, 51; Bebe Neuwirth, 52; Anthony Hopkins, 73

Happy Birthday: Mixing a serious mindset with a little playful ingenuity will give you the balance you need to capture all sorts of attention, not just those already interested in what you are doing. Broaden your horizons both personally and professionally and you will see how quickly you can expand at home and at work. Love will play an important role. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 23, 38, 43, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A partnership appears to be limiting. You must resolve any personal or professional issues you have with the people you deal with in order to advance in the new year. A change in your living arrangements and financial future looks positive. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Say what you need to say but be prepared for an immediate reaction, especially if it involves money. Love and relationships will be enhanced. Do something special for the one you love. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A false sense of security may develop if you take what a big-talker has to say or offer you. Keep things in perspective. Bring in the new year with moderation and an awareness of the reforms you must make in 2011. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Enjoy socializing but don't give up one set of circumstances for another. Look carefully at what and with whom you are dealing before

you make a life-altering decision. A change of heart can cement a relationship. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Protect your home and your assets. You will see people in a different way if you explore conditions that are quite different from your normal setting. Keep your eyes open and your mind alert. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let emotions get in the way. Moderation is key. A positive change in the way you see situations and people will enhance your relationship with someone special. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel bogged down with responsibility but that is no reason to mope. If you cannot venture out, invite others to join you at home. Don't begin the year with false hope or lies. Get what's important to you out in the open. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bring the past into the future and you will discover that you have more to offer. A change in location or a new set of circumstances will alter your life and help you to jump start something you should have done a long time ago. Opportunity knocks. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Intoxicated people will be a problem. A personal dilemma will develop if you are flirtatious or overindulgent. A secret revealed is likely to force you to face emotional issues you've been avoiding. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You must mix the old with the new this New Year's Eve. A wide variety of people,

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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both young and old, will give you a greater sense of what you can do, making the upcoming year more successful and rewarding. Love is in a high cycle. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set a course that will make the most of the year to come. The realization that you are the one controlling your future will help you determine what is required. A sudden change, a revelation, a new friend or lover will start 2011 off on the right foot. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid overindulgence. You have so much going for you that it would be a shame to ruin your chance to achieve the goals most important to you. Love can lead to a commitment and a long-term partnership as well as a prosperous future. *****

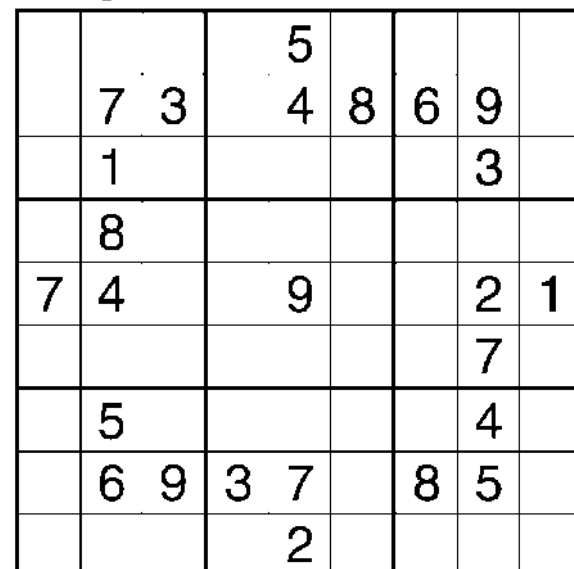
Birthday Baby: You are persistent, progressive and proactive. You stand up for your beliefs. You are a competitor and a participant in life.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



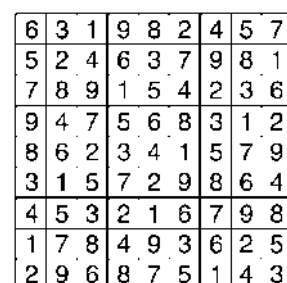
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword!

TUXEDO RENTAL

Solution: 6 letters



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Airtie, Belt, Best Man, Back, Boutonniere, Bow tie, Cane, Catalog, Choice, Glassy, Co. ar, Cast, Gummerbund, Hiquette, Event, Fine, Fits, Lancherchief, Hats Jacket, Line, Male, Measure, Parent, Policy, Private, Professional, Prom, Quality, Rates, Rent, Sale, Shirt, Shoes, Simple, Size, Socks, Special, Store, Stucs, Style, Thera, Ties, Time, Trousers, White, Wool, Warm
Yesterday's Answer: Racks
Airtie, Belt, Best Man, Back, Boutonniere, Bow tie, Cane, Catalog, Choice, Glassy, Co. ar, Cast, Gummerbund, Hiquette, Event, Fine, Fits, Lancherchief, Hats Jacket, Line, Male, Measure, Parent, Policy, Private, Professional, Prom, Quality, Rates, Rent, Sale, Shirt, Shoes, Simple, Size, Socks, Special, Store, Stucs, Style, Thera, Ties, Time, Trousers, White, Wool, Warm

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Wade scores 45 in Heat's win over Rockets



HOUSTON (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored 45 points and the Miami Heat extended their road winning streak to 10 games with a 125-119 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday.

Wade shook off a hard foul from Aaron Brooks early in the fourth quarter to reach 40 points for the 30th time in his career. He hit 17 of 24 shots, went 10 for 10 from the free-throw line and pulled down seven rebounds one night after scoring 40 points in a 106-98 win over the New York Knicks.

Wade reached 45 points for the eighth time, and hit 40 points on consecutive nights for the first time in his career.

LeBron James scored 20 points and had nine assists and Chris Bosh scored 21 points for the Heat, who set a franchise record with their 15th win in December.

The Heat have won 16 of their past 17 overall. The Rockets were the first opponent to reach 100 points in that span.

Luis Scola scored 22 points, Kevin Martin had 21 and Brooks added 20 points and nine assists for the Rockets, who had an eight-game home winning streak snapped.

The Heat led 92-89 when Wade took an outlet pass from Bosh and sprinted for a dunk. Brooks smacked Wade in the face on the way up, and Wade fell to the floor. He stayed face-down on the floor for several seconds, but eventually got up and walked to bench with a towel covering a cut on his upper lip.

Wade said after the game that he was angry about the foul, adding that he would need stitches to repair the cut.

But the injury didn't slow him down at all.

About two minutes after the hit, Wade drove into Brad Miller, hit an awkward layup and converted another three-point play to push the Heat's lead to 100-93.

Houston closed the gap to four, but Mario Chalmers made a 3 and James hit a pull-up jumper to extend the lead again.

Wade then swatted the ball away from Scola, and finished a fast break with a layup to reach 40 points for the second straight game. He slipped past Scola for another layup on the Heat's next trip, got fouled by Jordan Hill and hit the free throw for a 115-105 lead.

Joel Anthony clinched it for Miami with four free throws in the final 34 seconds.

Miami shot 58 percent from the field (43 of 74), but couldn't shake the Rockets, who scored 61 points in the first half, a season high for a Miami opponent.

James' first shot was an airball from the corner, but Miami still jumped to a 13-5 lead.

Kyle Lowry picked up his second foul with 6:14 left in the first quarter and was replaced by Brooks, who was playing his fifth game since recovering from a severely sprained ankle.

Wade scored 13 points on 5-for-5 shooting in the quarter, and Miami led 35-28. James had only six points in the first quarter, but had six assists.

With James and Wade on the bench, Houston scored on its first four possessions of the second quarter to pull even at 37. Bosh scored the next five points to move Miami ahead again.

Brooks set a fast tempo and the Rockets scored 34 points in the sec-



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for a shot as Houston Rockets' Courtney Lee (5) and Brad Miller, right, defend during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010, in Houston.

ond quarter to take a 62-59 lead to the break. Brooks had 12 points and five assists in the half, and Chuck Hayes added nine points with six rebounds.

Hayes stole the ball from Wade in the last minute of the second quarter and fed Martin for a dunk. Wade swished a jumper from the top of the key with six seconds left, giving him 24 points at the break.

Lowry and Martin opened the second half with 3-pointers to stretch Houston's lead to seven. The Rockets hit 7 of their first 11 shots out of half-time and hit 80 points with 5 1/2 minutes left in the third. The Heat came in giving up only 91 points per game.

James swished a pair of jumpers and James Jones hit a pull-up 3-pointer during a 14-4 Miami spurt and the Heat surged to an 88-84 lead. Miami hit 12 of 18 shots in the third quarter.

Lakers 103, Hornets 88

In New Orleans, Lamar Odom responded to his first time out of the starting lineup this season by scoring 24 points off the bench as Los Angeles convincingly ended a rare three-game losing streak by downing New Orleans.

Kobe Bryant added 20 points as the Lakers snapped out a lapse in which they lost by 15 or more points in their previous three games.

Chris Paul had 20 points for the Hornets. David West twisted his left ankle late in the first half and tried to play through it, but finished with only eight points in 28 minutes.

Pistons 104, Celtics 92

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kevin Garnett left in the first quarter with a leg injury, and Boston looked ragged without him in a loss to Detroit.

The Celtics lost for only the second time in 17 games, but they're encountering some potentially serious adversity now. Garnett hurt himself on a dunk late in the first quarter, and although X-rays revealed no fracture in his right leg, he didn't return. Boston was also without point guard Rajon Rondo, who missed his sixth straight game with a sprained ankle.

Tracy McGrady scored 21 points for the Pistons, who led 45-37 at half-time and pushed the margin to 16 in the third quarter.

Hawks 103, Warriors 93

In Atlanta, Josh Smith had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead Atlanta over Golden State.

Al Horford had 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Hawks.

Dorell Wright scored a career-high 32 points for Golden State, which lost its first game in four.

Jazz 103, Clippers 95

In Los Angeles, Al Jefferson had 31 points and 10 rebounds to help Utah beat Los Angeles.

Andre Kirilenko missed his first game of the season because of a lower back strain and reserve C.J. Miles also sat out because of flu-like symptoms, leaving the Jazz vulnerable at small forward. Utah rookie Gordon Hayward made his fifth start of the season in Kirilenko's spot, and had 17 points and six rebounds.

Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 30 points and 12 rebounds.

Thunder 114, Nets 93

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 27 points before taking the fourth quarter off as Oklahoma City rolled past error-prone New Jersey.

Oklahoma City forced a season-high 23 turnovers and bounced back from a loss in what's becoming trademark fashion. The Thunder are 10-1 after a loss this season.

Russell Westbrook added 17 points and seven assists through the first three quarters as all 12 players scored for Oklahoma City.

Devin Harris and Brook Lopez each scored 19 points to lead New Jersey, which has lost its past three games by a combined 51 points.

76ers 123, Suns 110

In Phoenix, Jrue Holiday scored 25 points to help Philadelphia beat Phoenix.

Evan Turner scored 23 points off the bench for the Sixers, who were without Andre Iguodala, who missed his second straight game with tendinitis in an Achilles' tendon.

Steve Nash had 23 points and 15 assists to lead Phoenix and Vince Carter added 18 points in his Suns debut. Carter has missed four straight games with a sore knee after he was acquired. Phoenix has lost four straight.

Wizards 104, Pacers 90

In Washington, Nick Young had 25 points and nine rebounds to lead Washington over Indiana.

Andray Blatche had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

Mike Dunleavy had 20 points for the Pacers, who've dropped seven straight on the road.

The Wizards began the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run to extend a five-point lead to 83-69 with 8:24 to play.

Kings 100, Grizzlies 98

In Sacramento, Tyreke Evans made a 3-pointer from midcourt as time expired, lifting Sacramento over Memphis.

The shot was reviewed by officials and upheld, ending Sacramento's seven-game losing streak and giving the NBA's worst team only their second win in 18 games.

Moments before Evans' game-winner, O.J. Mayo gave the Grizzlies a 98-97 lead with an off-balance 22-footer with 1.5 seconds remaining. That shot looked as if it would hold up until Evans took the inbound pass and raced to midcourt before launching the shot.

Evans, the NBA's rookie of the year last season, raced to the sideline and jumped on the scorer's table following his game-winning shot. He finished with 21 points for the Kings. Rookie DeMarcus Cousins added a season-high 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Zach Randolph scored a season-high 35 points and had 17 rebounds for Memphis.

Nuggets 119, Timberwolves 113

In Minneapolis, Chauncey Billups scored 15 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter, hitting three huge 3-pointers to lift Denver over Minnesota.

The Nuggets won despite being without star Carmelo Anthony for the fifth straight game and were missing starters Kenyon Martin, Nene and top reserve Al Harrington with injuries. Chris Anderson stepped in with 11 points and seven rebounds.

Michael Beasley scored 33 for the Timberwolves.

Bobcats 101, Cavaliers 92

In Charlotte, the hosts made it two wins from two under interim coach Paul Silas by beating lowly Cleveland.

Stephen Jackson scored 38 points and D.J. Augustin added 28 for the Bobcats. Jackson hit a decisive 3-pointer with 1:40 left to stop Cleveland's late rally and made 13 of 15 free throws. Augustin hit 10 of 14 shots and is shooting 20 of 29 from the field since Silas replaced the fired Larry Brown.

Ramon Sessions scored 22 points for the slumping Cavaliers, who have lost 13 straight on the road and were without top scorer Mo Williams (hip) then lost Daniel Gibson (thigh) in the third quarter.

NFL fines Favre \$50K for 'failure to cooperate'



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

(AP)—Down to the last few days of the season and maybe Brett Favre's career, the NFL ended a slow-paced investigation of tawdry allegations against the quarterback with a \$50,000 fine and a rebuke for not being candid.

The league punished one of its marquee players for failing to cooperate with investigators who were trying to determine if the 41-year-old quarterback sent inappropriate messages and below-the-belt photos to Jenn Sterger in 2008, when both worked for the New York Jets.

The ruling came days before what could be the final game for the three-time MVP. He'll start for Minnesota at Detroit on Sunday if he's recovered from a concussion sustained Dec. 20 against Chicago, and has said this will be his final season, though he's unretired in the past. He made the declaration even before his NFL record for consecutive starts was snapped at 297 in mid-December.

It's been a tough season on the field for Favre and his Vikings, and by the league's own admission, the investigation begun in early October has generated plenty of bad publicity for all the parties involved—Favre, Sterger and the NFL itself.

Yet Commissioner Roger Goodell "could not conclude" that Favre violated the league's personal conduct policy based on the evidence currently available to him, the league said in a statement announcing the fine.

Forensic analysis failed to establish that Favre sent the objectionable photographs to Sterger, the league said.

Favre's punishment stems from Goodell's determination that he was "not candid in several respects during the investigation resulting in a longer review and additional negative public attention for Favre, Sterger and the NFL," the league said. The commissioner also told Favre that if he had found a violation of the league's workplace conduct policies, he would have imposed a "substantially higher level of discipline."

The NFL said its sole focus was on whether Favre violated workplace conduct policy, not to "make judgments about the appropriateness of personal relationships."

There was no comment from Favre and his agent, Bus Cook, did not return messages.

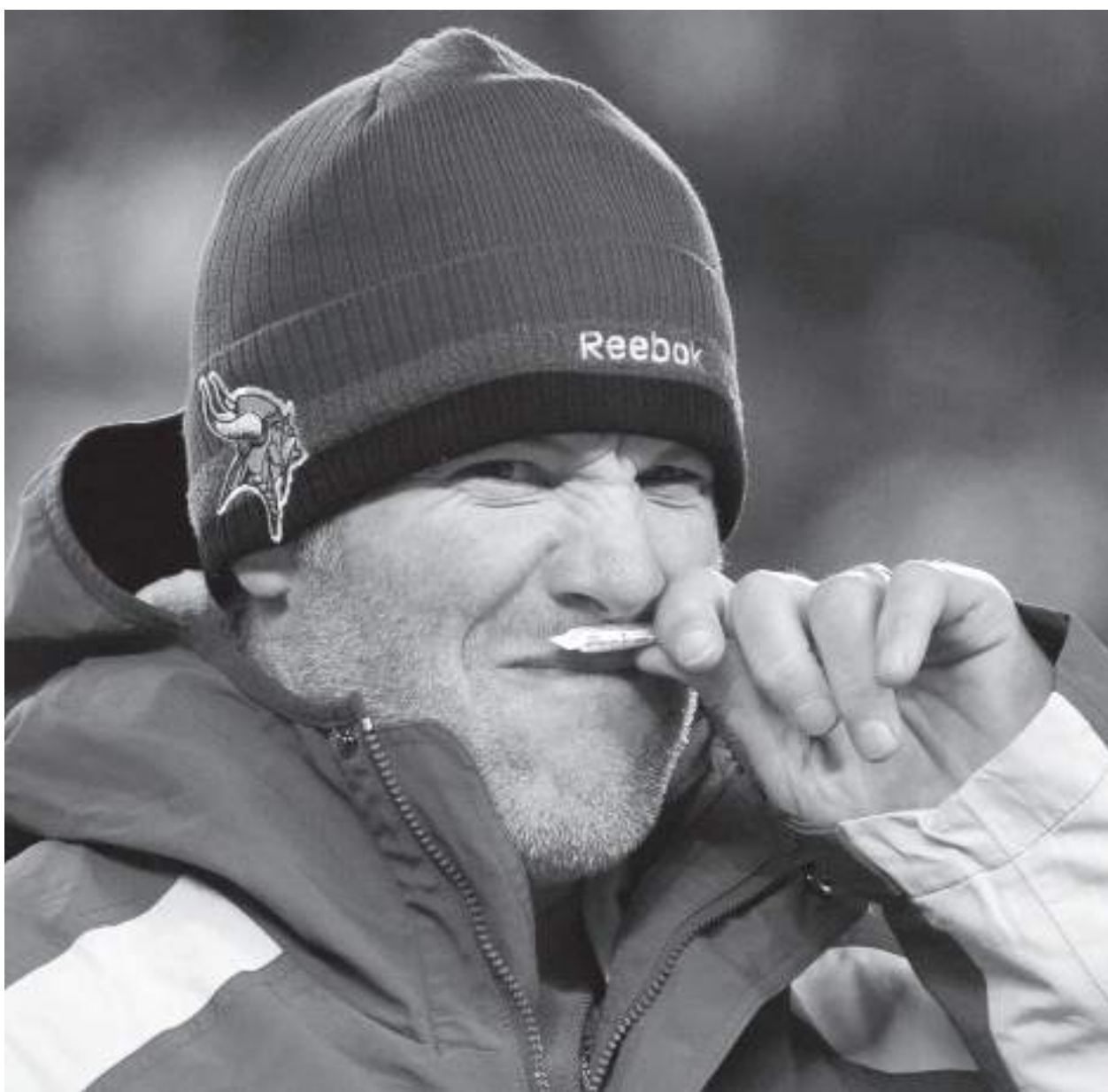
The ruling drew a swift and bitter response from Sterger's attorney, who accused the league of favoritism.

"It clearly shows that an NFL star player was given preferential treatment and tells all other players that failure to cooperate may cost you some money but will not result in other punishment," said Joseph Conway, who added there was "ample evidence" the photos were of Favre.

"Additionally, today's decision is an affront to all females and shows once again that, despite tough talk, the NFL remains the good old boys' league," Conway said.

Conway said Sterger is undecided about whether to take legal action against Favre, the Jets or the NFL.

The league said its investigation dragged out because of difficulties in setting up interviews with "certain key individuals," the complication of



Minnesota Vikings injured quarterback Brett Favre takes a whiff of smelling salts on the sidelines during the Vikings' NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Reid not sure Vick will play Sunday against Dallas

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick may get a game day off after all—only because of injury instead of earning a bye.

A day after the NFC East champion Philadelphia Eagles squandered their chance at a postseason bye, it became clear that Vick may have taken his last snap until the playoffs.

His severe leg bruise might be enough to keep him out of Sunday's regular-season finale against the Dallas Cowboys. Vick limped around the field and the locker room after he sustained a quad contusion on the first play of the Eagles' 24-14 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Tuesday night.

Eagles coach Andy Reid hasn't decided if Vick's injury will keep the quarterback out of the game. All signs point toward yes.

The Eagles don't need their daring and dashing QB to play Sunday. They are locked into the NFC's No. 3 seed and will host the No. 6 seed on Jan. 8 or 9. Their final game against the Cowboys is meaningless in the standings, so it's likely Vick and most of the starters will rest.

The short Wednesday-to-Sunday

retrieving and reviewing electronic records and Goodell's decision to meet with both Favre and Sterger before reaching a conclusion.

Vikings players had Wednesday off, and interim coach Leslie Frazier said he "never put a lot of energy or focus" on the situation.

"I can't really speak for Brett and

break makes it even more unlikely that Vick will take any snaps.

"He might be able to play Sunday, I don't know that for fact," Reid said.

Reid described Vick as feeling tight and sore Wednesday, but the Eagles did not say which leg is hurt.

"I'm not even sure he can get back from what he's got here with the quad," Reid said.

Vick said after the game he tried to "tolerate" the injury and get through 60 grueling minutes.

With nothing at stake, Reid says he hasn't decided how much the other starters will play, if at all.

"Some guys need the play time, some guys need the rest time," he said. "So I have to look at who those guys are, and what situations I put them in."

Vick, selected as the NFC Pro Bowl starter shortly before the game, mostly struggled after his 3-yard TD pass to Clay Harbor in the first quarter gave the Eagles a 7-0 lead. He lost two fumbles, threw an interception and was sacked six times.

Vick has been battered in recent games and he looked gimpy, gingerly

how it has affected him on and off the field," Frazier said. "I just know that whenever he's in meetings, whenever he's on the practice field, he's been all in in every situation. I've never thought for a moment that he wasn't as prepared as well as he's prepared ever."

Frazier said the organization is "extremely supportive of the league of-

fice," but the coach also said he was "pulling for Brett and his family."

Goodell in a memo sent Wednesday to all NFL teams said that "every member of every club's staff should be able to work in an environment free of harassment or hostility, and one in which every employee is valued, respected, and given a full opportunity to

walking to the huddle and off the field most of the night.

"I tell by the way he runs and it looked like he was running full speed," Reid said. "So he was able to get out of any danger, he just, when he walked, he kind of walked with a little bit of a gimp, but he sure moved well."

If Vick doesn't play, Kevin Kolb will start. Kolb was anointed the Eagles' No. 1 quarterback after serving as Donovan McNabb's backup for three seasons. Kolb suffered a concussion in Week 1, paving the way for Vick to take over—and take off. He set career highs this season in yards passing (3,018), touchdowns passing (21) and touchdowns rushing (nine).

Kolb would be an able replacement—he became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 300 yards in his first two career starts last year.

He's on standby for the postseason as Vick's body keeps taking a pounding. Reid and teammates expressed concern earlier this month that other teams aren't being penalized for what they perceive to be illegal hits on Vick.

contribute to the goals of the club and the NFL."

Favre's fine will help fund a new training program on workplace conduct around the league, though for the multimillionaire QB the penalty is a pittance. Even while sitting out of Tuesday's game at Philadelphia because of post-concussion symptoms, Favre essentially earned \$50,000 over about five minutes of action.

According to NFLPA data, Favre's base salary for this season is \$11.6 million.

The allegations against the quarterback surfaced on the website Deadspin, which posted a video Oct. 7 that included text messages and voicemails allegedly left by Favre for Sterger, including one in which he invites her to his hotel.

A former model who was a Jets gameday hostess and later appeared on the Versus television network, Sterger refused to speak on the record to the website. Weeks after the story broke, she talked with league investigators and cooperated fully, according to her manager Phil Reese.

Deadspin editor in chief A.J. Daulerio acknowledged paying a third party for the material it posted on Favre and said that he could not guarantee the material was genuine.

The league also reviewed media reports that Favre pursued two massage therapists who worked at the Jets' facility in 2008. But the NFL said that claim could not be substantiated because people with "potentially relevant information" declined to be interviewed or cooperate with investigators.

According to the league, its investigation included the following: "an analysis of publicly available reports; a series of interviews with knowledgeable individuals, including Sterger and Favre; a review of communications between the two furnished to our office; and independent forensic analysis of electronically stored material."

The investigation was also limited in several respects because the matter was not brought to its attention until two years after it allegedly occurred, the league said.

Favre has consistently refused to answer reporters' questions about the allegations. He said early on that he had enough to worry about with the Vikings' next opponent, and that's certainly been true this season.

Convinced to come back for one more run at a title by three Minnesota teammates who flew down to see him in Mississippi, Favre's second year with the Vikings has been nothing like the charmed run of last season, which ended with a heartbreaking loss to New Orleans in the NFC championship game.

With 11 touchdowns and 19 interceptions, Favre's passer rating of 69.9 ranks ahead of only Arizona's Derek Anderson and rookie Jimmy Clausen of Carolina.

Favre also has been battered by injuries to his ankle, chin, ribs, back, head and throwing shoulder—the one that forced him to finally miss a start, against the Giants on Dec. 13. But despite all his troubles, Favre has said all along that he did not regret coming back for a 20th NFL season.

"If you had seasons like you did last year, every year," he said recently, "I don't think you would appreciate them nearly as much."

Tiger Woods saga voted AP sports story of year

2010 YEAR END REPORT

By **RACHEL COHEN**
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Tiger Woods' humbling return to the public eye, from his televised confession to a winless season on the golf course, was voted the sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press.

The fallout from Woods' admission of infidelity edged a very different sort of story: The New Orleans Saints winning their first Super Bowl championship, giving an emotional boost to their hurricane-ravaged city.

It was late 2009 when Woods' pristine image unraveled after he crashed his SUV into a tree outside his home, unleashing salacious revelations of extramarital affairs. The story was a late addition to last year's voting and wound up fifth.

But the twists and turns weren't over for Woods. Many more developments were still to unfold in 2010.

There were 176 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. The voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story getting 10 points, the second-place story receiving nine points, and so on.

The Woods saga received 1,316 points, with the Saints' title getting 1,215 and the NBA free agency frenzy coming in third with 1,085.

Major League Baseball's

ongoing travails with performance-enhancing drugs was the top story last year.

Here are 2010's top 10 stories:

■ **1. TIGER WOODS:** Woods returned to public view with a 13 1/2-minute statement in February, then came back to golf at the Masters in April with a fourth-place finish. That would be one of his few highlights on the course—Woods went winless on the PGA Tour for the first time in his career and lost his No. 1 ranking for the first time in years. In August, he and Elin Nordegren divorced.

■ **2. SAINTS WIN:** New Orleans residents loved their Saints for not abandoning the city after Hurricane Katrina, but it was hard to imagine the team bringing much joy on the field after 42 mostly losing seasons. Then Drew Brees and Co. upset the mighty Indianapolis Colts in their first Super Bowl, to the delight of French Quarter revelers and fans nationwide who adopted the Saints.

■ **3. FREE AGENCY FRENZY:** NBA fans were captivated by the mystery of where MVP LeBron James and other marquee free agents would land. Few would have guessed that three of them would sign with the same team: the Miami Heat, who became basketball's Evil Empire by adding James from Cleveland and Chris Bosh from Toronto to Dwyane Wade.

■ **4. WORLD CUP:** A World Cup of firsts ended gloriously



In this Feb. 19, 2010 file photo, Tiger Woods pauses during a news conference, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. AP

for Spain and for Africa. South Africa hosted the continent's first World Cup without the pitfalls many predicted. And the Spaniards brought home the first World Cup title to the soccer-mad country with a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in extra time.

■ **5. GIANTS WIN:** The Giants hadn't won the World Series since they moved to San Francisco in 1958—and since 1954 overall. This didn't seem to be the year to end the drought when they barely squeaked into the playoffs. But with dominant pitching and

clutch hitting, they beat the Texas Rangers in five games.

■ **6. NFL CONCUSSIONS:** New posters distributed to teams before the season warned of concussions' dangers in much harsher language than before. Another sign of how big the issue

had become: increased reporting of concussions by players. Mid-season, the NFL cracked down on helmet hits with huge fines and threatened suspensions.

■ **7. JIMMIE JOHNSON:** The NASCAR driver extended his record with his fifth straight Sprint Cup title. Perhaps most impressively, he did it despite not being in top form all season. Johnson became the first driver in the Chase's seven-year history to overcome a points deficit in the finale.

■ **8. BRETT FAVRE:** This comeback was nothing like last year's magical run to the NFC title game for the 41-year-old quarterback. His Minnesota Vikings struggled badly, and the NFL launched an investigation into whether he sent lewd photos of himself to a Jets employee. After voting began, his record streak of 297 starts ended.

■ **9. UCONN WINS:** The Huskies' women's basketball team extended their record winning streak to 78 games with a second straight national championship in April, becoming the first team to post consecutive unbeaten seasons. And Connecticut is a powerhouse again this season.

■ **10. WOODEN DIES:** The Wizard of Westwood died June 4 at the age of 99. John Wooden coached UCLA's men's basketball team to 10 NCAA championships, including seven in a row from 1967-73 and an 88-game winning streak.

Palmeiro still insists he never used steroids



Rafael Palmeiro is sticking to his story

that a tainted vitamin shot caused his failed drug test five years ago, and hopes Hall of Fame voters will overlook the mistake and honor him for his 3,020 hits and 569 homers.

A week before the Baseball Writers Association of America announces its inductees to baseball's Hall of Fame, Palmeiro told SI.com in a phone interview posted Wednesday that he never used performance-enhancing drugs in his 20-year career. As he asserted in 2005 after he was suspended for failing a test, Palmeiro again insisted the anabolic steroid was in a B-12 vial given to him by Baltimore Orioles teammate Miguel Tejada.

"I was telling the truth then, and I am telling the truth now," Palmeiro said. "I don't know what else I can say. I have never taken steroids. For people who think I took steroids intentionally, I'm never going to convince them. But I hope the voters judge my career fairly and don't look at one mistake."

One of only four players in big

Guillen's son rips Jenks over White Sox comments

CHICAGO (AP)—One of Ozzie Guillen's sons is firing back at former White Sox closer Bobby Jenks for comments made about the Chicago manager.

Jenks, who signed a two-year deal with Boston last week, expressed disappointment to MLB.com that the White Sox decided not to re-sign him. He told the website he was "looking forward to playing for a manager who knows how to run a bullpen."

Oney Guillen called Jenks a "punk" in a series of Twitter posts.

In one, he wrote that Jenks should "be a man and tell the manager or the coaching staff how u feel or the organization when u

were with the sox not when u leave." In another, he wrote that Jenks "cried in the managers office bc u have problems now u go and talk bad about the sox after they protected u for 7 years ungrateful."

Oney Guillen resigned from his job in the scouting department in March after the organization took exception to some of his tweets. He previously posted critical comments of White Sox general manager Ken Williams.

The White Sox distanced themselves from Oney Guillen's latest comments, saying he is "not a member of the White Sox organization, and in no way does he speak for the Chicago White Sox."

league history with 500 homers and 3,000 hits, Palmeiro's once certain election to the Hall is in jeopardy. Baseball voters have denied Mark McGwire, 10th on the career list with 583 homers, four times and his election seems unlikely—McGwire received only 23.7 percent of the vote last year and 75 percent is needed.

"I never played for the Hall of Fame," Palmeiro told SI.com on Tuesday. "I only played to win and have fun. But, yes, now the Hall of Fame is important to me. Why

wouldn't I want to be there? It would mean more than anything to me. I hope they don't hold me out for one mistake at the end of my career."

A four-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove first baseman, perhaps the most memorable moment Palmeiro's career came when he boldly wagged his finger at Congress in March 2005, saying "I have never used steroids. Period."

That July he got his 3,000th hit, and three weeks later it was announced he tested positive for steroids and was sus-

pended 10 games.

Considering the elite statistics and the late period of his career, Palmeiro told the website he doesn't understand why people don't believe him.

"I don't want to take anything for granted, but there was a legitimate chance that I was going to get 3,000," Palmeiro said on Tuesday. "I had no motivation to take steroids because I was at the end of my career."

A few days before Major League Baseball made the failed test public, Palmeiro called President George W. Bush at the

White House—Bush was a former owner of the Rangers, one of Palmeiro's teams along with the Cubs and Orioles.

"I had a number for him, and it was a very difficult call to make because he had been so supportive of me," Palmeiro told SI.com. "I didn't want him

to read about it in the newspaper or hear it on television.

"He's always given me good advice, and that day he told me that he was behind me. He told me to just tell the truth and let the chips fall where they may," Palmeiro recalled. "He told me to tell the truth and stick with it." (AP)

| TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| NBA STANDINGS | | | | |
| Houston | 15 | 16 | .484 | 12 |
| Memphis | 14 | 18 | .438 | 13 1/2 |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Boston | 24 | 6 | .800 | — |
| New York | 18 | 13 | .581 | 6 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 13 | 19 | .406 | 12 |
| Toronto | 11 | 20 | .355 | 13 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 9 | 23 | .281 | 16 |
| Southeast Division | | | | |
| Miami | 25 | 9 | .735 | — |
| Orlando | 20 | 12 | .625 | 4 |
| Atlanta | 21 | 13 | .618 | 4 |
| Charlotte | 11 | 19 | .367 | 12 |
| Washington | 8 | 22 | .267 | 15 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| Chicago | 20 | 10 | .667 | — |
| Indiana | 13 | 17 | .433 | 7 |
| Milwaukee | 12 | 18 | .400 | 8 |
| Detroit | 11 | 21 | .344 | 10 |
| Cleveland | 8 | 24 | .250 | 13 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Southwest Division | | | | |
| San Antonio | 27 | 4 | .871 | — |
| Dallas | 24 | 6 | .800 | 2 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 18 | 14 | .563 | 9 1/2 |
| Northwest Division | | | | |
| Utah | 22 | 10 | .688 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 22 | 11 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Denver | 18 | 13 | .581 | 3 1/2 |
| Portland | 16 | 16 | .500 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 8 | 25 | .242 | 14 1/2 |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| L.A. Lakers | 22 | 10 | .688 | — |
| Phoenix | 13 | 17 | .433 | 8 |
| Golden State | 12 | 19 | .387 | 9 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 10 | 23 | .303 | 12 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 6 | 23 | .207 | 14 1/2 |
| Yesterday's Games | | | | |
| Atlanta 103, Golden State 93 | | | | |
| Charlotte 101, Cleveland 92 | | | | |
| Washington 104, Indiana 90 | | | | |
| Detroit 104, Boston 92 | | | | |
| Denver 119, Minnesota 113 | | | | |
| L.A. Lakers 103, New Orleans 88 | | | | |
| Oklahoma City 114, New Jersey 93 | | | | |
| Miami 125, Houston 119 | | | | |
| Philadelphia 123, Phoenix 110 | | | | |
| Sacramento 100, Memphis 98 | | | | |
| Utah 103, L.A. Clippers 95 | | | | |
| BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | | | | |

MMA fighters make grade

2010 YEAR END REPORT

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Tinian's Keli "Rukiz" Manglona and Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial all achieved great success this year both on- and off-island in their respective mixed martial arts events and competitions.

Back in July, Manglona notched an impressive 46-second knockout win during MMA



Fitial



Camacho



Manglona

Explosion's Fight Night in Las Vegas, Nevada before coming home to successfully defend his Gorilla Warfare middleweight title this past August. In between these two bouts, Manglona also was declared the Cruiserweight Champion of an Armed Forces Combatives Tournament held in Joint Base Balad in Iraq; he is undefeated in seven bouts so far in his MMA career.

Camacho, meanwhile, attained his Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Blue and Purple belts this year and is now highly regarded as a world champion in the discipline. He won Blue Belt division gold medals

in both the BJJ World Championships-Mundials and in the 2010 Ohio Grappling Challenge. He also won a gold medal in the 5th Beast of the East Grappling and Jiu Jitsu Tournament in New Jersey last March.

Fitial, for his part, won a gold medal last June in Trench Tech's Art of War 5 No-Gi Grappling and Submission Challenge. He also went to Hong Kong in late September where he notched a technical knockout win in the 3:16 mark of the first round in Legend Fighting Championship 3's main event heavyweight bout.

Three Major League prospects from Saipan

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Joshua Jones, Jeremy Rabauliman, and Vince Cepeda received high praise from Baseball Oceania Regional Development Officer Ray Brown who said the trio can play college or perhaps even professional level baseball.

Of the three, Brown reserved the most praise on the lefty Jones. He implied that Jones very well may have a "Major League" curveball.

The Falcons' standout was



Cepeda



Jones



Rabauliman

also selected as the most valuable player of the 2010 Saipan Little League Big Division championship with his outstanding performance both on the mound and at the plate.

Rabauliman is the Benjamin of the bunch and star player of a stacked 2010 Saipan Little League Junior Division Champion Patriot squad. He virtually cleaned up the individual

awards at the end of the season with six.

Brown attested that the 15-year-old's 84mph fastball is faster than virtually anyone his age in Australia. Basically, this kid has college player written all over him, said Brown.

With an 88mph fastball, Brown noted that Cepeda was the top velocity pitcher during the baseball competition of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. Cepeda also won Rookie of the Year in his first Saipan Major League season with the 2010 runner-up Brewers.

New cage leagues sprout, masters reestablished



By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Local basketball enthusiasts welcomed two new leagues that started this year in Garapan and Gualo Rai. Both leagues had highly competitive turnouts in their inaugural year and are expecting a positive turnout next year.

Docomo Pacific-Mobil swept the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup best-of-three series over Ferrera Builders in late November of this year and took home the hefty \$1,500 championship cash prize.

Easy Does It's Oscar Sablan is sandwiched by two Brabu Bulls defenders during the inaugural Masters caging in April at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Back in early September, Satbahi advanced to the playoffs after finishing its 10-game 3rd Miller Lite Friendly Invitational season undefeated. The team, however, was upset in Round 1 of the playoffs before making a spirited comeback from the loser's bracket to advance to the finals. Fittingly, they faced Wings Travel in the championship and got their revenge in the end to win the diadem.

Master-level basketball started back in 2000 as more of an off-and-on pet project. It, however, began to hit its stride when the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI was formed in November 2009 and was officially established in mid-February this year. Currently, the organization has 350 members and counting.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the CNMI Women's National Team are escorted by youth players during the opening ceremony for the 4th Annual Marianas Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Oleai Sports Complex shuts down in October

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The usually busy sports community disappointingly found itself without a venue to hold its competitions due to the closure of the Oleai Sports Complex in October.

The complex, which houses the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the weight room, the track and field facility, and the Francisco "Tan Ko" Pa-

lacios Ballfield, was closed to the public for more than a week due to the government shutdown.

The Rotary and Masters basketball leagues had to reschedule their games due to the temporary closure of the complex, while runners were forced to cruise along the Beach Road pathways instead of doing their usual routine at the track oval.

Baseball games in the MISO league were also reset, while a baseball clinic had to be postponed.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Oleai Sports Complex's parking lot was empty, as the facility was closed to the public due to the government shutdown in October.

Two tournament hole-in-one winners in 2010

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The rarest of feats in the golf course was accomplished not once but twice in tournaments on Saipan in 2010.

This past June, businessman Ralph Yumul sunk a hole-in-one in hole No. 7 of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's west course during the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic and won \$25,000 for his good fortune. Yumul aced the 180-yard Par 3 for his second hole-in one in 14 years of playing golf

Then on the same course in November, Mori Toshiyuki won



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Japanese Mori Toshiyuki, third from left, receives the key of a brand new Toyota Yaris from Guam Chapter Make A Wish Foundation beneficiary Juan Blanco, fourth from left.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ralph Yumul, center, receives the giant check worth \$25,000 after a hole-in-one shot in the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf.

a brand new Toyota Yaris after sinking a hole-in-one during the 15th Annual Club at The Hyatt

Golf Classic. Toshiyuki aced hole No. 3 on the west course's 189-yard Par 3 to win the keys

to his new car and notch his first ever hole-in-one after taking up the sport almost 30 years ago.

CNMI Seniors advance to World Series

2010 YEAR END REPORT

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

In mid-August, the CNMI Senior Division All-Stars advanced to Little League World Series in Bangor, Maine.

Although they lost all four games in the big show, they were still perceived as a Top 10 caliber team in Little League Baseball competition and came home with the Daniel E. Clifford Team Sportsmanship Award, which they received to a standing ovation. The accomplishment marked



Members and coaches of the 2010 CNMI Senior League All-Stars pose for a group photo at IT&E's Chalan Laulau office during a donation presentation.

Saipan's third time to advance to the Senior Division Little League World Series in seven years (2008 and 2004).

The Senior All-Stars went undefeated in four games to

win the Asia-Pacific Regional championship held a month prior in Jakarta, Indonesia. They defeated Guam, 4-3, in their first game and went through the host team from Ja-

karta, 7-4, the following day. Then after a day's rest the team knocked off a squad from the Philippines, 5-2, for an automatic berth to the finals, which they won over Guam, 8-4.

Notably, the CNMI trailed Guam, 0-4, at the start of the last inning of regulation and pulled off a miraculous eight-run rally to turn the table on their Guam rivals. Then they held on to shut out Guam in the bottom half of the inning to take the championship.

The Saipan Seniors All-Stars also swept the Tinian and Rota All-Star teams in the CNMI District Tournament. They torched Rota in the finals, 17-2, in five innings.

CNMI junior tennis players put on a show in Fiji



Cajigan



Lopez

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI-led North Team ruled the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in 2010 in Fiji, a feat that powerhouse West Squad enjoyed for nine straight years.

The Commonwealth had Thea Minor, Rafael and Angelo Jones, Chris Cajigan, Carl Dela Cruz, Melody Johnson, Mikayla Lopez, Christian Miller, Jake Lee, and Negahr Rastguay on the 18-player North Team. Together, the Commonwealth netters helped the squad collect 131 points to beat the West's

128 markers and East's 77.

Cajigan and Miller were the best finishers among the CNMI netters, placing runner-up in the boys U12 and U14 singles, respectively. Rastguay also finished third in the girls U12 singles.

In a separate tournament in Fiji—the Oceania Plate—Rafael Jones was ranked first in the boys seniors, winning all his six matches.

The CNMI junior netters' notable performance in Fiji proved that the Commonwealth has among the strongest and more consistent tennis programs in Micronesia.

Mieko races to victories

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Certainly, Mieko Carey was first on the list of top triathletes in the CNMI in 2010, following her victories in on- and off-island races.

First, she was the No. 1 Saipan finisher in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship and third overall in the women's division. She also joined the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon and placed fourth.

Then in August, she gave the CNMI a gold medal in the women's triathlon competition in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau. A few weeks after the Micro Games, Mieko headed to Marunuma and topped XTERRA Japan for the second straight year.

She stayed in Japan until September and ruled the women's division of an MTB race.

A month after her twin wins in Japan, Carey went to Maui, Hawaii for the 2010 XTERRA World Championship where she crushed her 2009 time and improved from 18th to 13th place.

Before leaving Saipan for XTERRA World, Carey joined the 2010 Saipan Radar Run and was the top female finisher and fourth overall in the 4.7-mile race from Paupau Beach to Radar and back.

After XTERRA World, Carey competed in the 2010 Ride 'Round the Ridge and defeated



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey pedals up to the Bird Island Lookout during the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

two strong male bikers.

Her finals race of the year was the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race and Carey saved her best for last after reigning in the women's division in record-breaking fashion.



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The CNMI's Rezne Wong races to a gold medal win in the 100m butterfly event in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Swimming Pool in Meyuns.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Delegates of Team Marianas wave the CNMI flag during the opening ceremony for the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field in Koror, Palau, on Aug. 1, 2010.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micro Games success tops it all

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Undoubtedly, the biggest sports story in 2010 was the CNMI's unexpected success in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

Besieged by problems before the Games, particularly the funding aspect, CNMI athletes and officials held their heads up high when they left Palau after 10 days of competition, following a 44-23-25 gold-silver-bronze medal tally.

Team Marianas' performance

in Palau was better than its showing in the 2006 Micronesian Games that Saipan hosted. In the sixth edition of the regional competition, the CNMI hauled 34 gold medals, 33 silver, and 31 bronze.

As expected, CNMI swimmers delivered the bulk of the

gold medals for the Commonwealth. Athletics also contributed several hardware, along with triathlon, lawn tennis, and table tennis.

Swimmer Rezne Wong was named Outstanding Male Athlete of the Games after earning 13 gold medals and one silver.

Sprinter Yvonne Bennett was nominated for the Outstanding Female Athlete of the Games award for her multiple gold medal victories. She lost to Pohnpei swimmer Debra Daniel. Despite failing to notch the

coveted award, Bennett still left a mark in Palau.

The former Kagman High School student reestablished her claim as Micronesia's Fastest Woman title after record-breaking runs in the 100m, 200m, 400m races.

In table tennis, the CNMI sent only a men's team, but the quartet of Budhi Gurung, Su Yu Dong, Steve Lim, and Luke Lu was enough to give the Commonwealth gold medals in singles, doubles, and team events.

In lawn tennis, coach Jeff

Race's combination of young and veteran players helped the CNMI continue its dominance in tennis courts, while XTERRA World participant Miek Carey proved to be too much of a class against Palau triathletes.

Baseball and basketball failed to win gold medals for the CNMI, but theirs and other Commonwealth athlete's performance were as commendable as those of the gold medalists in the Micro Games.

Officials and coaches who worked with the athletes also deserved a pat on the back for a job well done.

2010 YEAR END REPORT



The CNMI's Yvonne Bennett, center, nears a record-finish in the 100m race in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field in Koror, Palau.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

